

FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, MEDALS, TOKENS AND PAPER MONEY

*by David L. Ganz*

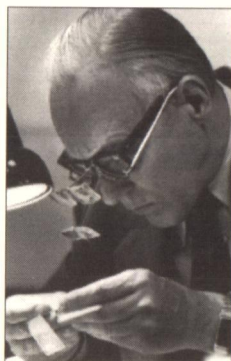




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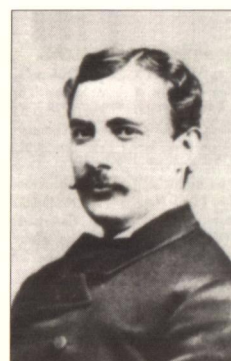
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# The Numismatist

## FEATURES

### U.S. COINAGE

#### Gift, Theft or Find: The 1974 Aluminum Cent

390 With the reported "discovery" of a 1974 aluminum pattern cent, the question of private ownership of unofficial Mint issues resurfaces.

DAVID L. GANZ

### U.S. MEDALS

#### Tribute to a Luckless Warship

395 The brig *Somers* sank tragically in 1846. Her turbulent history and the medal struck in tribute to the rescuers of her crew make an intriguing numismatic study.

THOMAS SEBRING

### BIBLICAL NUMISMATICS

#### A Biblical Forerunner of the First True Coin

402 Sealed bags of precious-metal ingots are mentioned in the Bible and may have circulated as money in Asia Minor as early as 2250 B.C.

MARVIN TAMEANKO

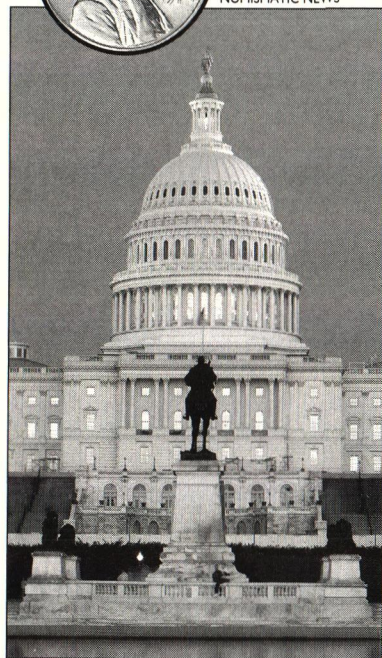
Trouble seemed to surround everyone and everything connected with the ill-fated brig *Somers* (page 395).





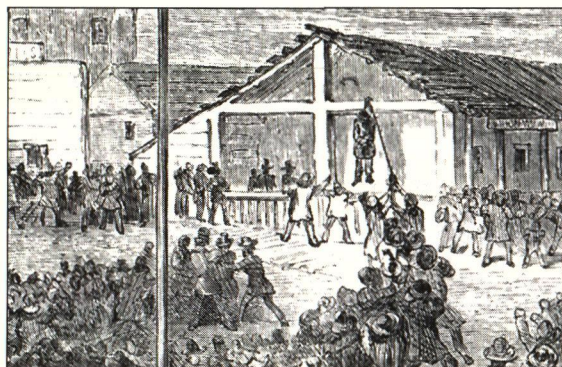


NUMISMATIC NEWS



COVER

The author relates the history of the sample aluminum cents produced in 1974 (page 390).



San Francisco's Committee of Vigilance was formed during the Gold-Rush era in response to the escalating crime rate (page 407).

DEPARTMENTS

- 370 **From Your President**  
*by H. Robert Campbell*
- 372 **Mint State Views**  
*by David Allen Hines*
- 374 **Readers' Top Ten**
- 375 **Letters**
- 380 **ANA Target 2001**
- 383 **New Issues**  
*Macau, Netherlands, United Kingdom*
- 387 **Numismatic Narratives**
- 407 **Coins and Collectors**  
*by Q. David Bowers*
- 410 **Names in Numismatics**  
*by Pete Smith*
- 413 **Notes on Paper**  
*by Gene Hessler*
- 416 **Medieval Musings**  
*by Arthur M. Fitts III*
- 419 **Coins in Cyberspace**  
*by Alan Herbert*
- 421 **Consumer Alert**  
*by Kenneth Bressett*
- 429 **Bookmarks**
- 433 **Membership News**  
*ANA CHRONICLE*  
*Atlanta Exhibits, Presidential Awards, Election Nominees, Summer Seminar Update, Donation of Exhibit Cases*
- DONATIONS*
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS*
- CLUB NEWS*
- MEMBERSHIP REPORT*
- OBITUARIES*
- 436 **Information for Authors**
- 453 **From One to Seventy**  
*by David W. Lange*
- 455 **The Collector's Edge**  
*by Don Bonser*
- 456 **ANA Authentication Bureau**  
*by Brian A. Silliman*
- 460 **Advertising Rates**
- 461 **Display Classified Ads**
- 462 **Curator's Corner**  
*by Robert W. Hoge*
- 464 **Auction Insights**
- 466 **Classified Ads**
- 471 **Advertiser Index**
- 472 **Pearlman's People**  
*by Donn Pearlman*



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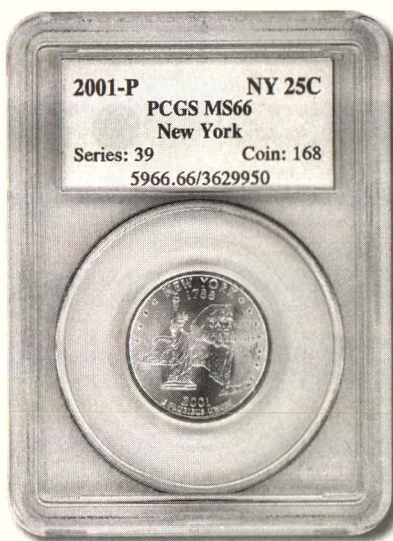
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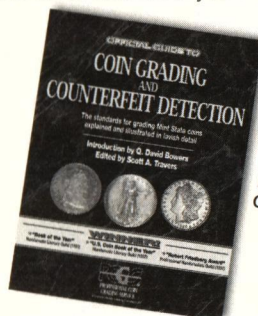


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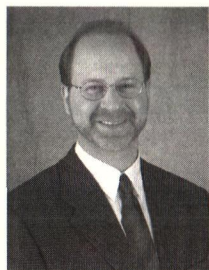
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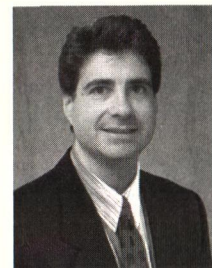
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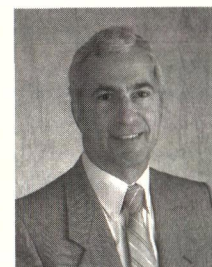
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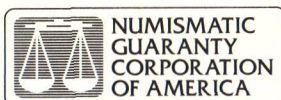
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Mark Salzberg LM-3127



# The Life and Pride of a Collector

GENERALLY, THIS SPACE is devoted to the business of the American Numismatic Association and related hobby activities. However, this month I would like to share some personal reminiscences, notably how I got started in the coin hobby and why the ANA is important to me.

The odyssey began with my father, Harold Melvin ("Bob") Campbell, who owned a small jewelry/watch shop here in Salt Lake City, Utah. He passed away when I was almost 5 years old, and even though I have tried to recall something about him—a voice, a picture, an embrace, anything—I have no memories of him.

However, he did leave behind the legacy of a coin collector, for which I am very grateful. Hidden among the "family valuables" were about a half-dozen, blue Whitman folders filled with Indian Head and Lincoln cents, Buffalo nickels, Mercury dimes, Washington quarters and Franklin halves.

My father also left a curious, little white box that contained the stuff dreams are made of. Inside were miscellaneous coins, tokens and medals from around the United States and the world. They came in all sizes, shapes and colors: there were large, round, silver crowns and square coins from distant isles and places I could only imagine going to someday. Scalloped-edged coins with kings and queens pictured on them ignited my imagination and set the course of this adventure.

One medal in the box commemorated the 1935 Diamond Jubilee of the Pony Express. In the classic style of artist Frederick Remington, the medal pictured a young man crouched low in the saddle, holding a Colt

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

BY H. ROBERT CAMPBELL

revolver and riding "like the wind" toward the mountains. As an 8- or 9-year-old, my mind often would wander when I looked at these pieces, dreaming of the stories they held. Little did I realize that one day I would own one of the largest collections of

Pony Express medals—now comprising more than 125 pieces of all shapes, sizes and colors. Even now, I annually participate in a hair-raising re-enactment of the Express riders with my daughter, Sarah, all because of that medal I found years ago.

By the time I was 12, I had assembled a small coin collection by trading with other collectors—mostly my brothers—and at coin shops. In 1970 I begged my mother to take me to a new store called "Wally's Coin Shop" in the Sugarhouse District. It was owned by an "old" man (to me anyone over 40 was old) named Wallace W. ("Wally") Hopper, who took an instant liking to me.

Not having a father when I was growing up, I was drawn to Wally. He started me out with the "Red Book" (*A Guide Book of United States Coins*) and asked me to find the answers to three questions before I returned to see him and purchase coins. I thought this was a prerequisite for all customers; I did not realize he was grooming me to become a numismatist. I studied and memorized that "Red Book," answering hundreds of questions as I completed circulated sets of Lincoln cents, Walking Liberty and Franklin halves, and more.

When I was 15, Wally asked me to come to a meeting of the local coin club—the Utah Numismatic Society (UNS), which met on the third Wednesday of each month at the Cottonwood Mall. He introduced me as the "whiz kid" who came into his shop twice a week "to bug" him. I remember the meeting featured a coin quiz. For each question I answered correctly, I received a ticket for a prize drawing later that evening. I didn't have any money with me to buy raffle tickets (like everyone else did), so I was happy to earn some by answering questions.

However, I wondered why no one else seemed to give the right answers. Surely, they also bought coins from Wally and were required to take the same tests I had over the last three years. As I was trying to figure that out, my number was called, and I won a 1945 Mexican 5-peso gold piece.

*continued on page 451*



*ANA President Bob Campbell (LM 3663) started collecting coins as a boy in Utah. He and his wife, Carol, now own and operate All About Coins, Inc., a shop in Salt Lake City that he frequented as a youngster. A professional numismatist by trade, he remains a collector at heart. Before his election to the Board of Governors, Campbell served as national coordinator of the ANA's Representative Program.*



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AD-5



# "Uncentsible" Coin Production

FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-three. I recently gathered up all the cents in my possession, and that's how many I counted. If everyone hoarded that many, the United States very well would be faced with a cent shortage. But, as I looked at the pile, I said to myself, "So what?"

The truth was, I could not think of one thing to do with them. My car was in need of a bath, but the machines at the carwash accept only quarters. I guess I could have gone to the local convenience store and bought a few candy bars or something, but the odious look I would get from the clerk and the other customers if I tried to pay with a few hundred pennies forestalled that thought.

I decided to take my coins to work to see what I could do with them. I tried to put them in my pants pocket, but



I stopped before I was halfway done loading them, fearing my pants might fall down or the pocket might rip. Instead, I transferred them to a plastic bag.

That bag had a hated and tortured existence over the next few days. My secretary threatened me when I tried to exchange

them in the petty-cash box. My co-workers openly laughed at me, even when I offered to "sell" them \$5.73 worth of pennies for just \$3. I took my bag to the bank when I made the daily deposit, but it wouldn't accept the cents unless they were rolled, which, given my clumsy fingers, I was not about to do. Finally, the bag ended up as a paperweight on my desk. A few days later, I disgustingly threw the pennies in the trash. The janitor saw me and just laughed . . . and he didn't even take the bag off the refuse heap!



For several years, I have read about proposals to abolish the cent denomination, and the coin collector in me sided with those who opposed such plans. But, as I contemplated the fate of my 573 pennies, I had an epiphany. The coins were completely, utterly useless! Why then

does the United States Mint continue to produce them?

There is the ridiculous argument of "price inflation," that merchants will round every price up a few cents to the nearest nickel. But who really cares if they do? What's it going to cost the average consumer, a couple dollars per year? Even when people do receive pennies in change, they often toss them aside.

The Mint currently makes more cents than all other denominations combined, spending more time and effort on a coin no one seems to want than on those that are regularly used. And the seigniorage (the profit made by the government on the minting of coins) is less for the cent than for any other coin, yet another "dis-incentive" to produce it in large quantities.

Abolishing the cent denomination would eliminate an essentially useless coin while freeing up space in cash-register drawers for the new dollar coin, which, if properly marketed, surely will become more useful. Some would argue that the slot for half dollars could be used for this purpose, but the truth is, some 50-cent pieces still circulate (plus, clerks often use this large compartment to store "everything else," that is, items that can't readily be assigned to a slot).

After all, what would you rather use at the store, carwash or vending machine: four quarters, a dollar coin or a hundred pennies? Common sense and practicality must overcome our emotional attachment to this obsolete, 200-year-old denomination. Did anyone really care in 1857 when the half cent was eliminated for much the same reasons?

*David Allen Hines is a city manager in northeastern Pennsylvania. Like many hobbyists, his first collecting challenge was building a set of Lincoln cents.*

*Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the ANA or the editorial staff.*





Nidwalden, 5 Batzen, 1811

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# Readers' Top Ten

IN RESPONSE TO our request in the January 2001 issue, readers cast their votes for their favorite articles and columns in the 2000 volume of *The Numismatist*. The top 10 articles (in descending order) are noted below.

Emerging as the three most popular columns (also in descending order) were "Consumer Alert" by Kenneth E. Bressett, "Pearlman's People" by Donn Pearlman and "Coins and Collectors" by Q. David Bowers.

## 1 Coinage of Fear and Prejudice by Nancy E. Martindale (November 2000)

*The segregation of those afflicted with leprosy led many isolated colonies to issue their own currency. Some specimens are hard to come by.*

## 2 Two Debatable Varieties of the 2-Cent Piece by Debbie Williams (December 2000)

*Authorities question whether copper 2-cent pieces struck during the Civil War era bear overdates or merely repunched numerals.*

## 3 Jackson, Biddle and Broken Banks by James C. Johnston Jr. (September 2000)

*The bitter battle between Andrew Jackson and Nicholas Biddle produced some wonderful paper money and Hard Times tokens.*

## 4 Bank Notes and Broken Dreams by Ed Stevens (March 2000)

*If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. One professional learned this important lesson the hard way.*

## 5 Men of the Revolution, the Sea and Currency by Mark Rabinowitz (August 2000)

*Numbered among the patriots who signed Continental Currency were naval heroes and other patriots with maritime connections.*

## 6 In Search of Camp Currency by Steve Feller & Eric Hammarsten (May 2000)

*During World War II, internment camps on the Isle of Man developed their own coins and paper money.*

## 7 Crime and Perseverance by Edward C. Rochette (February 2000)

*With the recovery of two unique American coins stolen more than 30 years ago, Willis H. du Pont's amazing collection again is in the news.*

## 8 Steam Power: A Pressing Issue by Cathy L. Clark (March 2000)

*The United States Mint's first steam-powered coin press is displayed at an ANA convention 164 years after its auspicious debut.*

## 9 Coin Security on the Road by Steven Ellsworth (September 2000)

*Common sense—and these helpful tips from a professional—will help you transport your numismatic valuables without incident.*

## 10 Shiny, New Coins and a Hearty "Hi Yo, Cheerios" by Stephen L. Bobbitt (January 2000)

*The maker of America's favorite breakfast food gives the hobby a boost by placing numismatic "prizes" in specially marked boxes of cereal.*



# LETTERS

• anaedi@money.org •

## Thanks for a Successful Show

I would like to thank *The Numismatist* for listing the Salisbury Coin Club's February 11 show in Salisbury, Maryland, in the "Calendar of Events." The event was a great success with a lot of new faces. Thanks to all who attended and helped make the show happen.

Harry Di Palma, ANA 173132  
President, Salisbury Coin Club

## Nobody Here but Us Trees

I just finished reading "Mint State Views" by Clay Everhart concerning his "insane" love for his coins ("Guilty as Charged," February 2001, p. 132). I haven't had such a good laugh in quite a while; my eyes actually teared! Reason? The insanity he describes is as common as trees in a forest!

When I completed a set of Educational Notes in 1979 by purchasing an About Uncirculated \$5, I was so dumbstruck by its beauty and by the fact that I actually owned it, that on the way home, driving on the parkway at 60mph or better, I sat it on the steering wheel in front of me. It received much more attention from me than the road ahead did!

Also, not only have I placed newly purchased coins near my bed, but my "insanity" has led me to bring them into the bathroom for some really intense study and admiration! I have gone so far as to actually get up in the middle of the night to look at a new coin and then go back to bed to dream about it!

Finally . . . sex? No comparison!

What collector in his right mind would swap a really desirable coin for some short-term satisfaction? Anyone who would does not belong in the forest with the rest of us (insane) trees!

Please extend my thanks to Mr. Everhart for this really amusing piece. Tell him that I am actually "in love" with my Chain cent, and I'm sure it feels the same about me!

Victor E. Annaloro, ANA 180164

## Lewis and Clark Expedition Did Not Start in St. Louis

In the February 2001 issue, William Bristol did a fine job of clarifying the role of Sacagawea during the Lewis and Clark expedition ("Others Aided Lewis and Clark," p. 135). However, one of his points deserves further comment.

Bristol stated that "the expedition started from St. Louis in the spring of 1804." Actually, the Corps of Discovery left its winter camp on the Dubois River in The Illinois Country near its confluence with the Mississippi on May 14, 1804, and began what we know as the expedition to the Pacific. On that day, William Clark wrote in his field notes that the "point of departure" for the expedition was the mouth of the Dubois. That is where the expedition began. The boats crossed the Mississippi and began the voyage up the Missouri. The first major stop was St. Charles.

At no time after the Corps began its journey on the Mississippi River in 1803 did the boats stop at St. Louis (they did stop across from St. Louis at Cahokia), nor did the crew spend a night in the town. Meriwether Lewis and Clark both spent quite a number of days in St. Louis on business during the winter, but

## Raising the Bar

I guess the staff of *The Numismatist* is accustomed to being praised for its work, but I never tire of telling you that the ANA journal sets the standard by which other numismatic periodicals should be judged.

—Barry Krause, ANA 120989

the expedition camp was several miles north on the Dubois, or Wood River. The confusion most likely comes from the fact that the expedition ended in St. Louis, and it is easy to assume that is where it began.

As we move closer to the 200th anniversary of the expedition, there will be countless references to the voyage beginning in St. Louis. Accuracy is important in history, as well as numismatics.

Robert E. Hartley, ANA 166491

## Wood's Grading Proposal Merits Further Study

I believe Curt Wood's "Grading Proposal" in "Mint State Views" in the January 2001 issue of *The Numismatist* (p. 12) could be the beginning of a very useful discussion about coin grading! Although I am not involved in grading United States mint-state coins, I developed my own grading system for Southeast Asian coins. It is numbered from 0 (About Good or less) to 9 (Uncirculated), and each side of the coin is graded separately. A coin with a slightly damaged obverse and a perfect reverse might be graded 8/9 for an Almost Uncirculated/Uncirculated coin.

But I often have a problem with briefly identifying the quality of the strike and/or planchet. Wood's suggestion is a possible solution. I will



follow his advice and share my observations with him. I am looking forward to reading more on this subject, particularly from other readers.

Howard A. Daniel III, LM 934

### Reader Recalls Ancestor's Fantasy Land

I was amused by Ed Rochette's column, "The Other Side of the Coin," in the February edition ("One Person's Fantasy Is Another's Collectible," p. 187). One of my direct ancestors, Captain John Cleves Symmes, firmly believed in a hollow earth and that people inhabited it. Furthermore, he wrote a book, complete with maps, entitled "Sym-zonia," the name he called his inner-earth world. Novelist Jules Verne used this book as the basis for his

*Journey to the Center of the Earth.*

Now what has all this to do with numismatics? Symmes' uncle, also named John Cleves Symmes, owned the property in Morristown, New Jersey, where Walter Mould struck New Jersey coppers.

Carl Honoré, ANA 163142

### New Member Enjoys "Top-Notch" Publication

I am a lifetime collector and a new member of the ANA. After 42 years of collecting United States and foreign coins, I decided to join to enhance my knowledge and to bring my son and granddaughter into the hobby and the Association. The first issue of *The Numismatist* was a great welcome, and I really got a kick out of Q. David Bowers' story about

young John Woodhouse Audubon's trip to California in 1849 ("Coins and Collectors: Saga of the California Gold Rush," February 2001, p. 171). The fact that Audubon lost most of his sketches on the S.S. *Central America* is truly an amazing fact that I learned as a benefit of my ANA membership. *The Numismatist* is a top-notch publication.

Dan Murdock, ANA 195250

### Chilean Numismatic Association to Hold First Convention

The Chilean Numismatic Association will hold its first International Numismatic, Philatelic and Numismatic Congress in Santiago, Chile, April 21-22. Never before has such an event taken place in Chile. Thanks to the efforts of Santiago's



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Mark Yaffee, LM 2251



new mayor, who supports the arts and cultural endeavors, the Congress will be held at a museum in the center of the city. We anticipate an exhibit by the Chilean Mint, as well as numerous displays by collectors. We have had a great response to our classes for beginning collectors, so our future seems very promising.

Joaquín Morales, ANA 192401  
[lahobbyteca@entelchile.net](mailto:lahobbyteca@entelchile.net)

### Biafran Coins Pictured Primitive "Bracelet Money"

I enjoyed Ben Keele's excellent article in the February issue of *The Numismatist* entitled "Biafra's Short-Lived Monetary System" (p. 164). One point he didn't make (probably because it was not discussed in the sources he consulted) is that Biafran

circulating coins (but not the bank notes) plainly depict a manilla (the former "bracelet money" of this part of Nigeria) on the reverse below the palm tree. The shape is similar to that of the Onoudu pattern, though not exact (it is a little too open). Onoudu manillas were made circa 1825-75 and apparently circulated as late as the mid 1920s. All remaining manillas were demonetized and withdrawn by the British in 1948 and 1949, only 20 years before the Biafran coinage of 1969.

Robert D. Leonard, ANA 41531

### Coins of Ireland Hold Fond Memories

When I read the beautiful article "The Bard and the Barnyard" by Mitch Sanders in the January issue

(p. 42), I had to write. I was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1963. I met my wife here and have two wonderful children. I hope to retire soon and devote more time to the things that have eluded me these past 38 years, among them my six-month-old hobby of coin collecting.

This brings me to the main reason for this letter. In 1967, while honeymooning in Dublin, my bride and I visited an old neighbor—a wonderful "granny" named Mrs. Newman, who watched over me as if I were her own. As we departed, her son gave us two coins. When we arrived home, I put them in a drawer and promptly forgot them. When I took up the hobby, I remembered the coins and put them in my safe with my fledgling collection, always

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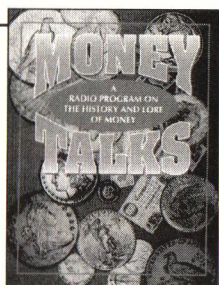
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intending to learn more about them.

Mr. Sanders' wonderful article brought back a flood of memories for me [and gave me the incentive to research the coins]. I am very thankful to him for that.

Patrick C. Mooney, ANA 193659

### Collectors Should Work Together to Ensure Circulation of Dollars

Belated cheers for the October 2000 "Mint State Views" by William A. Ross titled "Changing the Dollar Culture" (p. 1124). I agree with Mr. Ross that "the job of promoting the new (Sacagawea) dollar really falls upon the consumer." And like Mr. Ross, I too have been getting Sacagawea dollars from my bank on a regular basis (for spending only).

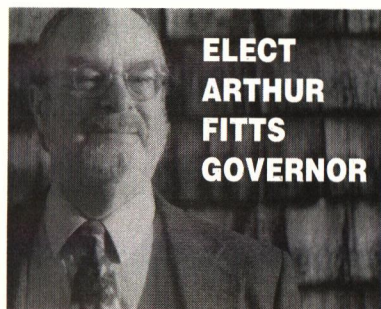
I also have applied this idea to the

rarely used Kennedy half dollar. Every time I get my new allotment of Sacagawea coins, I buy every half dollar the teller has at his station, and I spend these as well.

There are quite a number of ANA members out there. Acting together, we could do a lot to get the good-looking Sacagawea dollar, and maybe even the Kennedy half dollar, into active circulation.

Edwin J. Howe, ANA 27061

*Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the ANA or the editorial staff. THE NUMISMATIST reserves the right to edit all material for length and clarity. Direct correspondence to THE NUMISMATIST, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, fax 719/634-4085. •*



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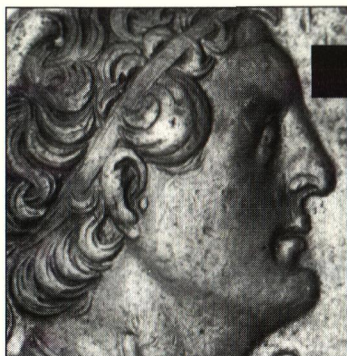
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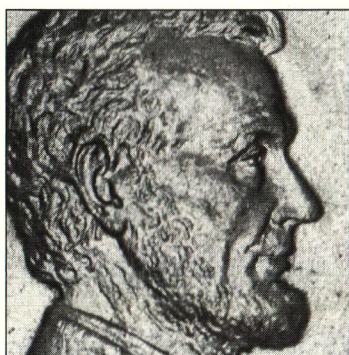
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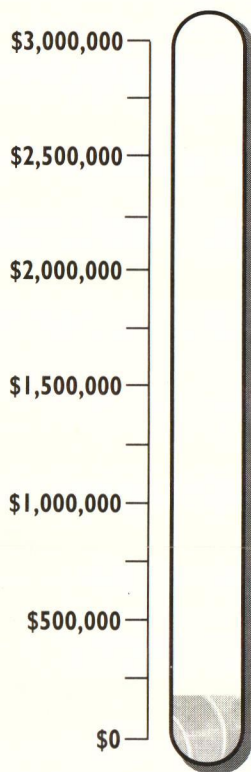
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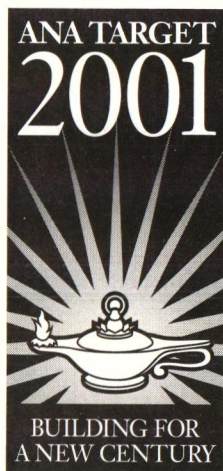
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# ANA Headquarters Renovation Fund



**TOTAL: \$160,825**  
 as of February 28, 2001



## Colorado-Wyoming Numismatic Association Contributes \$1,000 to Building Renovation

Despite a recent snowfall and icy roads, members of the Colorado-Wyoming Numismatic Association made their way to ANA headquarters in Colorado Springs to present ANA Executive Director Edward C. Rochette with a check for \$1,000 for the Headquarters Renovation Fund. Rochette later gave them a tour of the areas under construction. (Full-color photographs of the remodeling project can be viewed on the ANA's web site at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org). Simply click on "What's New," then "Images of Building Renovation.")

Send contributions to "ANA Target 2001," 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; telephone toll-free 800/367-9723; fax 719/634-4085; or E-mail [anaacc@money.org](mailto:anaacc@money.org).



The Colorado-Wyoming Numismatic Association (CWNA) recently donated \$1,000 to the ANA Headquarters Renovation Fund. Presenting the check to ANA Executive Director Ed Rochette (right) are CWNA members (from left) Allen Nye, Jerry Morgan, Howard Hinsey and Tom Hallenbeck.

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February 2001

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# NEW ISSUES

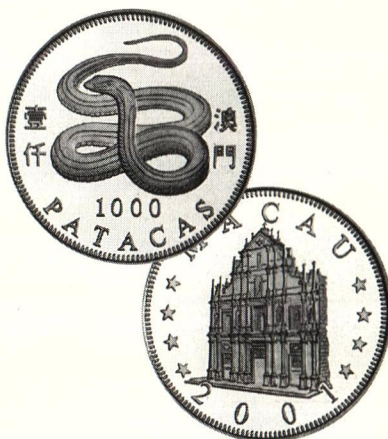
## MACAU: "Year of the Snake" Coins 11th in Series

In celebration of the Chinese lunar calendar's "Year of the Snake," the Monetary Authority of Macau has authorized the British Royal Mint to strike commemorative coins in gold and silver. A three-coin set—250, 500 and 1,000 patacas—is struck in 22kt-gold proof, with a mintage of 2,500 sets. The 1,000 patacas also is available individually (mintage 1,500), as is a .925 fine silver 100 patacas (mintage 4,000).

The 2001-dated coins continue an annual series begun in 1991. To the Chinese, the snake is believed to be a guardian of treasure and is hailed as a grateful creature, a symbol of intelligence and good looks. People born in the Year of the Snake are considered to be well-organized and determined, and when they speak, people want to listen.

The Snake symbol on the common obverse was designed by Macau artist Justino Lei and modeled by Royal Mint engraver Robert Elderton. The shared reverse design, also by Lei, features the ornate facade of the ruins of the Church of St. Paul, built between 1602 and 1608 and destroyed by fire in 1853.

The silver proof 100 patacas is priced at \$54.95; the gold proof 1,000 patacas is \$499; and the three-coin gold proof set is \$849. Please add \$4.95 postage and handling per order. To order, contact the British



Actual Size: 28.4mm

**Introduced in 1991, Macau's Lunar Calendar commemorative series continues with 2001-dated "Year of the Snake" coins, including a gold 1,000 patacas.**

Royal Mint, Cheyenne, WY 82008-0031, telephone toll-free 800/221-1215; or visit the Mint's web site at [www.royalmint.com](http://www.royalmint.com).

## NETHERLANDS: Guilder Phases Out as Euro Makes Debut

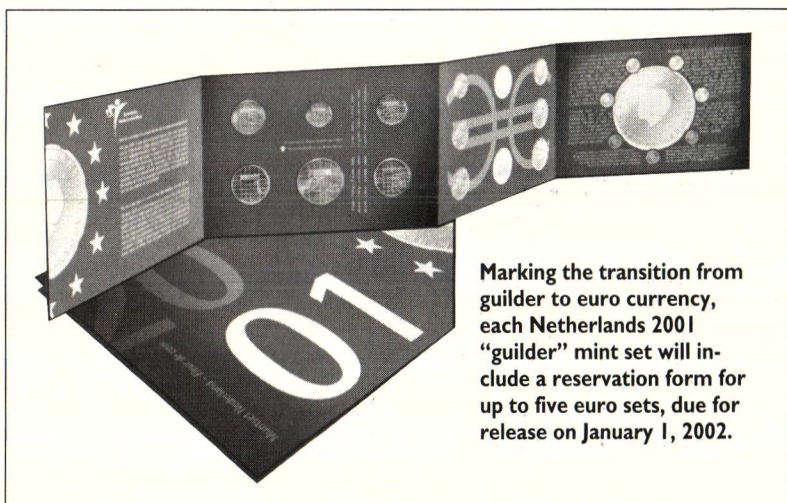
The Dutch guilder, a staple of the world currency system for two cen-

turies, will pass into the history books as it is replaced by the euro on January 1, 2002. National mints have been producing euros and storing them in huge holding vaults; Dutch euros released in 2002 will bear the dates 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Two types of Netherlands mint sets will be produced: one on the guilder standard, available now (for 1999, 2000 and 2001), and one with the 1999-, 2000- and 2001-dated euros, available after January 1, 2002. Each guilder set, in "fleur-de-coin" quality, includes a reservation coupon for up to five euro sets.

The six-coin 2001 guilder set includes all circulating Dutch coins, from 5 cents to 5 guilders, packaged in a full-color folder picturing their euro replacements. The set costs \$19.50. (The price of the euro set will be established prior to the release date.) Advance orders are being accepted for the 2001 Netherlands proof set, to be released later this year, for \$49.50 each.

The euro series will consist of eight coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 eurocents, plus 1 and 2 euros. The national side will feature a portrait



**Marking the transition from guilder to euro currency, each Netherlands 2001 "guilder" mint set will include a reservation form for up to five euro sets, due for release on January 1, 2002.**



of Queen Beatrix based on the current guilder coins designed by Bruno Ninaber van Eyben.

Please add \$4.50 to each order for shipping and handling; New Jersey residents also should add 6-percent sales tax. To order, contact the Coin & Currency Institute, P.O. Box 1057, Clifton, NJ 07014, telephone toll-free 800/421-1866, fax 973/471-1062 or E-mail [mail@coin-currency.com](mailto:mail@coin-currency.com); or visit the firm's web site at [www.coin-currency.com](http://www.coin-currency.com).

### UNITED KINGDOM: 2001 Sovereign Bears Pistrucci's Historic Motif

The British gold sovereign is a numismatic classic. First issued in 1489, the sovereign has carried Benedetto Pistrucci's classic reverse design of



Actual Size: 22.05mm  
Since 1817, Benedetto Pistrucci's rendering of St. George slaying the dragon has graced the reverse of the United Kingdom's gold sovereign.

St. George slaying the dragon for almost two centuries. The obverses of the 2001 gold sovereign and half sovereign bear Ian Rank-Broadley's portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, introduced in 1998.

Both the sovereign and half sovereign are struck from .917 fine gold, measure 22.05 and 19.30mm in diameter, and weigh 7.98 and 3.99g,

respectively. Mintage is limited to 100,000 coins each.

The 2001 United Kingdom gold sovereign and half sovereign are available for \$135 and \$77.50 each, respectively, from the British Royal Mint, Cheyenne, WY 82008-0031, telephone toll-free 800/221-1215. Please add \$4.95 postage and handling per order.

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## Grocery Chain to Circulate Golden Dollars

Safeway, one of the nation's largest grocery chains, announced on February 8 its commitment to routinely circulate Sacagawea dollars to customers in all of its more than 1,500 stores. Initially, each store will receive 1,000 coins. As the demand increases, stores will be able to order additional dollars.

Safeway's announcement comes on the one-year anniversary of the "golden" dollar's release. "The U.S. Mint is delighted to be working with Safeway to speed Golden Dollars into the hands of consumers. Safeway is fast forwarding the process," says Mint Director Jay Johnson.

## Dealers Report Thefts after FUN Show

Two, separate coin thefts were reported after the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) show held in Orlando in January. Both occurred as the victims were driving home from the event.

Gordon "Andy" Singer, a Maryland dealer specializing in ancient and medieval coins, said he was near Orangeburg, South Carolina, on January 7 when he drove to a gas station/convenience store to get a flat tire repaired. He unloaded baggage from the trunk to get to the spare and placed the items on the back seat of the car. He then went inside the store, forgetting to lock the car doors.

According to the sheriff's report, witnesses say that while Singer was

inside, they saw two men pull up alongside his car, quickly take the cases containing coins, and drive off in a beige car with Florida plates.

Unfortunately, Singer lost his entire stock of medieval coins, including Celtic ring money and a 1,000-coin bag of Hungarian pieces. He said 80 percent of the coins were in 2 x 2-inch flips, with a blue insert-card bearing his name and address.

A list of the stolen items can be found on Singer's web site, [www.numistory.com](http://www.numistory.com). A reward is offered for information about the theft. Contact Detective Allen Kinsey of the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department at 803/515-1897.

Another theft was reported by Jeff Werlin of Rochester, New York, who stopped at a fast-food restaurant in Kissimmee, Florida, on January 4. Thieves smashed the rear window of the minivan he was driving and took his stock while he was inside ordering. Werlin said he must have been followed from the FUN show.

He lost United States coins and cameo proof sets valued at \$50,000. A partial list of stolen items is available from Werlin by telephone at 716/292-6210 or via E-mail at [jwerlin1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jwerlin1@rochester.rr.com). Information about the theft can be directed to Detective Newsome at the Kissimmee Police Department, telephone 407/847-0176, ext. 3236. (Refer to case number 01-000114.)

## Royal Canadian Mint Scores High as Employer

The Royal Canadian Mint ranks as one of the 35 best companies to work for in Canada, according to the Hewitt Associates' annual study cited in *Report on Business Magazine*. According to Danielle Wetherup, president and master of the Royal

Canadian Mint, this year's first-time ranking attests to the Mint's ongoing commitment to fostering an environment of corporate success through employee development. She added, "This shared vision has evolved into a work environment that has energized and empowered employees and has enhanced productivity and profitability."

## ICG Claims Sabotage

Independent Coin Grading Company (ICG) reports that tampering caused the damage found in two sample ICG Intercept Shield™ holders. Soon after the Suburban Washington Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention in October, *Coin World* and the ANA received anonymous packages postmarked from Baltimore that contained corroded 2000 Lincoln cents in sample ICG slabs with the Intercept Shield. Results from independent testing indicate deliberate tampering.

As stated in an ICG press release, "This act reveals that there is someone out there so focused on stopping [the use of the product] they would maliciously sabotage ICG and collectors who want superior protection for their coins."

## New Study Says the Cent Makes Sense

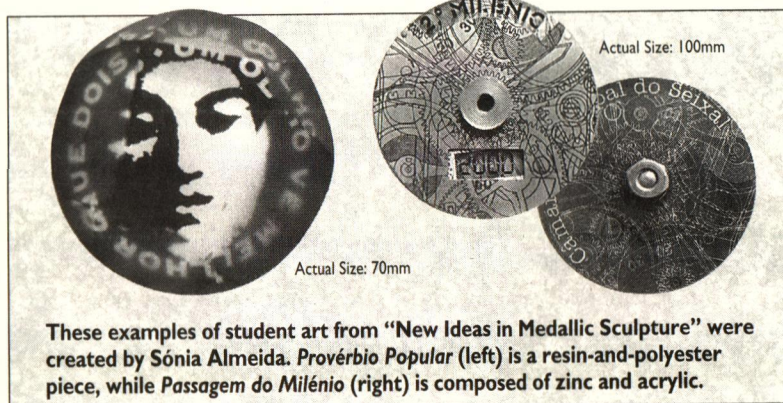
The cent still plays a critical role in the stability of the nation's economy, according to a recent study conducted by Raymond Lombra, professor of economics at Pennsylvania State University. The report states that removing the cent from circulation likely would result in price rounding to the nearest 5 cents. This "rounding tax" of nearly \$600 million a year would have a disproportional



tionate impact on lower socioeconomic groups, most dramatically on the nearly 10 million American households without checking accounts. Copies of the study are available via an E-mail request addressed to Lombra at [rl3@psu.edu](mailto:rl3@psu.edu).

## Medallion Exhibit Fosters Fresh Ideas

The third annual "New Ideas in Medallistic Sculpture" exhibition opened at the Medialia/Rack and Hamper Gallery in New York City from December 2, 2000, to January 30, 2001. The event was designed to encourage new artists, says Medialia director Mashiko Nakashima. A collaborative effort by the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and the University of Lisbon in Portugal, this event



These examples of student art from "New Ideas in Medallistic Sculpture" were created by Sônia Almeida. *Provérbio Popular* (left) is a resin-and-polyester piece, while *Passagem do Milénio* (right) is composed of zinc and acrylic.

"gives students an opportunity to show their work on an international stage, gives experienced medalists an opportunity to enjoy new concepts [in] their chosen medium and gives us all a vision of what the future may hold for medallistic art," says medal specialist Alan M. Stahl.

The medallistic exhibit will be shown at the University of the Arts from March 19 to April 8, and at Faculdade de Belas Artes de Universidade de Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal) from May 11 to June 8. For further information, E-mail Nakashima at [medialia@compuserv.com](mailto:medialia@compuserv.com).

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# Gift, Theft or Find: The 1974 Aluminum Cent

by David L. Ganz  
LM 1072

With the reported “discovery” of a 1974 aluminum pattern cent, the question of private ownership of unofficial Mint issues resurfaces.

**United States Deputy Treasury Secretary William E. Simon and Mint Director Mary T. Brooks at the March 27, 1974, hearing on Capitol Hill regarding the production of aluminum cents.** DAVID L. GANZ



A

FTER A QUARTER century of obscurity, a 1974-dated aluminum Lincoln cent pattern has surfaced, raising questions about its origin and collectability. Indeed, the legality of owning this unique experiment that almost became a coin of the realm is much debated.

*Numismatic News* broke the story of the find on the front page of its February 20, 2001, issue. The article, written by columnist (and ANA Governor) Alan Herbert, featured a photograph of the cent, which now is in the hands of a relative of the Capitol policeman who reportedly found it on the pavement in late 1973. (Herbert reports that the officer picked it up and offered it to the Congressman who apparently dropped it. “Ah, you keep it,” was his reply.) This is the second time the 1974 aluminum cent has occupied page one of *Numismatic News*; the first occasion was the January 1, 1974, issue—the last edition I worked on as assistant editor before leaving Iola, Wisconsin, to start law school in New York.

Interestingly, the announcement of private ownership of an aluminum cent pattern came just after the King Farouk specimen of the 1933 \$20 gold piece was declared legal to own. However, the United States Mint and the Department of Justice made it plain that all other 1933 double eagles are not. Inevitably, government mandate collides with collectors’ desire to acquire rare coins. Arguments abound as to the outcome. To determine whether it is indeed legal to own an aluminum cent requires an examination of the coin’s history.



"THE MINT CANNOT pay a reward for their return: we regard them as our property, illegally issued into circulation. We appeal to your sense of justice . . ."

.....

### Digging into the Records

IN THE FALL of 1996, I made a formal inquiry under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to the Department of the Treasury for data regarding 1974 and 1975 aluminum cents. (It turns out that experimental coins were struck with both dates, a fact that added immeasurably to their intrigue.) Some 27 pages of material surfaced, much of it previously unknown, including documents from the Office of the Executive Secretariat of the U.S. Mint, as well as the Mint historian. The Mint's Operations, Policy and Management divisions, as well as its Security office, were requested to produce records. (They did so, but by no means does this mean that all documents were made available.)

In July 1990, Dr. George E. Hunter, the Mint's assistant director of process and quality control, wrote to an individual (whose name and address were blocked out under FOIA guidelines) that 11 of the 1.5 million 1974 aluminum cents struck were "still outstanding. The Mint cannot pay a reward for their return: we regard them as our property, illegally issued into circulation."

Hunter continued, "We appeal to your sense of justice in returning them to their rightful owner, the U.S. government." He indicated the Mint would authenticate the coins, but added, "if they are illegal, they will be turned over to the U.S. Secret Service for appropriate action."

Brenda Gatling, the Mint's public information officer, explained the cents' creation in a letter dated September 16, 1973. "Because of an abnormally sharp increase in the price of copper, the Mint began a study of the possible replacement of copper in the one-cent piece with a lower cost material. As a result, legislation was transmitted to Congress in December of 1973, proposing to grant the Secretary of the Treasury [standby] authority to adopt an aluminum alloy for the one-cent piece . . ."

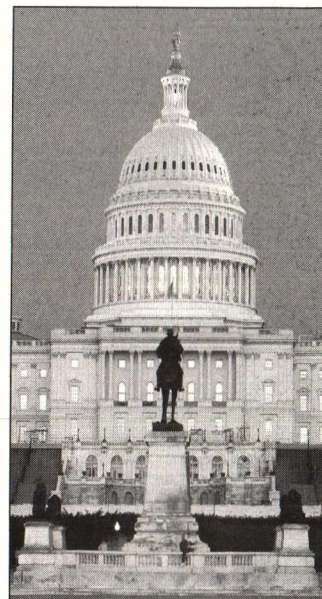
In accordance with usual practice, the House and Senate Banking committees asserted jurisdiction. "To assist the Committee in their consideration of the proposed legislation," Gatling wrote, "the Department furnished a total of fourteen experimental aluminum one-cent pieces dated 1974 to various members and staff of the committees. By having the actual samples before them, the Committees were thus able to evaluate the acceptability of aluminum pennies as part of our coinage system." (The proposal ultimately was rejected. A decade later, the copper-plated zinc cent was born out of the same pricing problem that forecast the aluminum solution in 1973.)

Gatling concluded by stating that "while the Committee had a legitimate



Actual Size: 19.05mm

NUMISMATIC NEWS



The aluminum cent pictured above reportedly was found on the pavement by a Capitol policeman in late 1973.





In March 1974, members of the House Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs (right) heard testimony from various authorities (left) regarding the feasibility of issuing aluminum cents. The subcommittee was represented by (from left) Congressman Henry Gonzalez (D-Texas), Staff Director Charles Holstein (standing), Congresswoman Leonor Sullivan (D-Missouri), Congressman Chalmers Wylie (R-Ohio) and Congresswoman Margaret Heckler (R-Massachusetts).

DAVID L. GANZ



interest in holding these experimental pieces, most of the aluminum one-cent pieces were returned to the Mint and melted in accordance with established procedures." She then offered the opinion that "those still outstanding remain the property of the U.S. government, and may not be circulated, sold, or held in collections." They were subject, she claimed, to immediate confiscation.

### Looking for Lost Cents

HOWEVER, RECORDS SHOW that perhaps the Mint did, in fact, give up control of the specimens and put them into the public domain. Close examination of the documents reveals much, right down to the names of the Congressmen and aides who received specimens.

The oldest of the memos bears the signed initials "AJG" and the name Alan J. Goldman, then the Mint's assistant director of technology. Dr. Goldman worked on aluminum alloys for the proposed cent, as well as several bronze alternatives. He recorded that on October 18, 1973, Mint Director Mary T. Brooks, Deputy Director Frank H. MacDonald and he "presented Deputy Secretary [William E.] Simon with proposed legislation for an aluminum alloy one-cent piece. Mr. Simon was given two 1974 one-cent pattern pieces which were struck in aluminum alloy 3033. . . . He retained the coins in order to discuss the matter with Secretary of the Treasury [George P.] Schultz [sic], who must make the final decision, within the Treasury Department, in the submission of legislation to Congress," Goldman wrote.

The aluminum cents, conceived in July 1973 and produced in the fall, were a closely guarded secret. The coins bore the 1974 date because it was thought that Congress would swiftly approve the idea and aluminum cents would enter the general circulation pool in the first half of 1974. The patterns thus would be indistinguishable. Legislation was proposed in December 1973 and accompanied by a 69-page report entitled "Alternative Materials for One Cent Coinage."

*continued on page 425*



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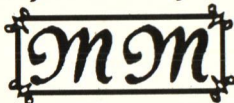
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# Tribute to a Luckless Warship

The brig *Somers* sank tragically in 1846. Her turbulent history and the medal struck in tribute to the rescuers of her crew make an intriguing numismatic study.

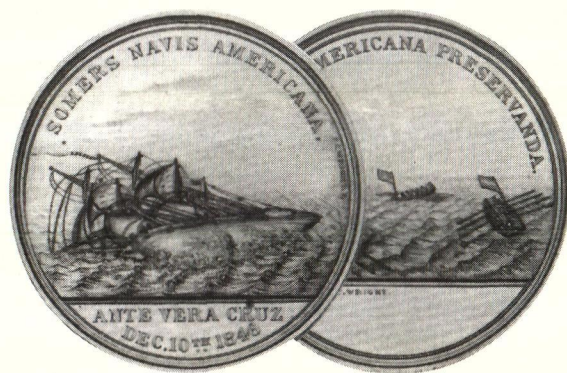
by Thomas H. Sebring  
ANA 28874

**I**N DECEMBER 1846, the brig-of-war *Somers* was patrolling the seas off Vera Cruz, Mexico, as part of the American fleet blockading the port during the Mexican War. Unfortunately, she sank in storm-tossed seas in the line of duty. The story of her demise, her heroic captain and her sister ships' valiant rescue efforts comprises a compelling tale culminating in the creation of a striking naval medal. The difficulties encountered in the production of this medal—indeed everyone and everything connected with this troubled vessel—set the stage for a dramatic story.

## Mutiny: A Prelude to Misfortune

THE SINKING OF the *Somers* in 1846 was not the first collision this luckless ship had with tragedy and controversy. In 1842, while serving as a school ship for the training of teenage volunteers, she became involved in the only recorded mutiny in the history of the United States Navy.

In November 1842, the *Somers* was a ship in turmoil. Her commander, Captain Alexander Slidell MacKenzie, was a fussy, sanctimonious, humorless individual who tended to fall apart in emergencies. Also aboard was an abrasive, apprentice midshipman named Philip Spencer. He did not get on well with his fellow officers and spent his free time with the crew. (Spencer's appointment was based on political patronage rather than excellence and ability, a fact that greatly influenced the sad sequence of events on the ill-fated *Somers*.)



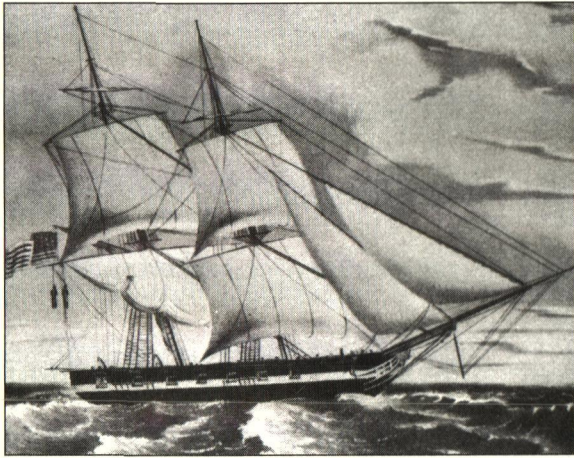
Actual Size: 56mm

Although authorized by Congress in 1847, the dies for the *Somers* medal were not completed until 1851. A communications problem between the Navy and the United States Mint resulted in the production of an error medal.



VERA CRUZ BECAME the key to [American] victory in the Gulf. In December 1846, the *Somers* was on patrol off the crucial Mexican port.

.....



The *Somers* sailed into numismatic history when her sinking in 1846 during the Mexican War prompted the creation of a naval medal.

On November 25, the purser's steward, James W. Wales, reported to the captain that Spencer had asked him to participate in a mutiny. Allegedly, the mutineers planned to seize the ship, turn pirate and head for Cuba.

The news sent Captain MacKenzie into a panic. He summoned his officers to decide on a course of action. After a day of review and consideration, the officers reported that indeed there was imminent danger of mutiny and declared that the three ring-leaders were Midshipman Spencer, Boatswain's Mate Samuel Cromwell and Seaman Elisha Small. Based solely on hearsay—without trial or due process—MacKenzie ordered the execution of the “mutineers.” Two hours later, the hooded, manacled

“malcontents” were hung from the ship's yardarm.

Complicating this tragic incident was the fact that the executed midshipman was the son of Secretary of War John C. Spencer. When the *Somers* reached New York, a great uproar arose, and an investigation was ordered. After the full story came out, the Department of the Navy was forced to court-martial Captain MacKenzie. While it was evident that the “mutineers” had been executed on the basis of flimsy, circumstantial evidence, MacKenzie eventually was acquitted. The only positive aspect of this sorry affair was that it led to the establishment of the United States Naval Academy in 1845, with the objective that only qualified individuals—not incompetent, political appointees such as Spencer—would be selected as naval-officer candidates.

### The Sinking of the *Somers*

AFTER THIS SAD chapter in naval history closed, the *Somers* endured still more. Aggravated by the growing American population in the southwest and the admission of the Texas Republic into the Union, friction between the United States and Mexico ignited in war. The Navy's Home and Pacific Squadrons blockaded Mexico's east and west coasts, seized numerous ports and conducted amphibious operations. Commodore M.C. Perry swooped in from the Gulf of Mexico with small sidewheel steamers and schooners and fought his way inland, mastering tortuous rivers to capture enemy strongholds and supply sources.

Vera Cruz became the key to ultimate victory in the Gulf. In Decem-



CONGRESS VOTED ON March 3, 1847, to award silver medals to the foreign naval personnel who had rescued the crew of the *Somers*.

.....

ber 1846, the *Somers* was on patrol off the crucial Mexican port. In addition to the American fleet, a number of British, French and Spanish ships were in the area as observers.

On December 10, Captain Raphael Semmes, commander of the *Somers*, saw a sail to the north and, thinking it was an enemy vessel, gave chase. The ship proved to be American. Semmes turned the *Somers* and began pursuing another vessel to the south. Although the *Somers* was fast, she was quite unstable. Caught in a sudden gale, she heeled over, and, despite all efforts to save her, capsized.

Semmes wrote to Commodore Perry describing what had occurred. He reported that after spending 45 days maintaining the blockade, the brig under his command had been lost off the shore of Verde Island. He explained that the *Somers*, loaded with much less ballast than normal and virtually no supplies or cargo, could not be controlled in the fierce squall that arose and soon foundered, losing more than half her crew.

Observing the catastrophe, nearby vessels sent boats to assist the stricken *Somers*. Although 30 seamen from the *Somers* drowned, the rest of the crew was rescued as a result of the extraordinary efforts of foreign naval ships. After an investigation of the sinking, Semmes not only was exonerated, but also was commended for his actions.

### A Troublesome Medal

CONGRESS VOTED ON March 3, 1847, to award silver medals to the foreign naval personnel who had rescued the crew of the *Somers*. An interesting sidelight to the production of these pieces is that a mistake made by the United States Mint led to the creation of a rare variety. The Department of the Navy had ordered that the medal's reverse display the legend PRO VITIS AMERICANORUM CONSERVATIS ("For Saving American Lives"). Instead of the requested inscription, the wording on the first issues was PRO VITA AMERICANA PRESERVANDA, which translates "For Preserving [An] American Life."

The Mint did not actually complete the medals

**Raphael Semmes became a renowned Confederate blockade runner during the Civil War, ultimately achieving the rank of rear admiral. Earlier in his career, he commanded the hapless *Somers* during the Mexican War, demonstrating bravery and leadership.**





## Raphael Semmes: A Naval Legend

.....

RAPHAEL SEMMES WAS in command of the *Somers* when she sank in 1846. He was exonerated and, in fact, commended for his leadership. The incident was but one heroic note in a legendary career.

Born in Maryland in 1809, Semmes entered the United States Navy as a midshipman in 1826. He studied law and was admitted to the bar while in the service. After the *Somers* was lost in 1846 during the Mexican War, he went on extended leave, practicing law in Mobile, Alabama. Promoted to the rank of commander in 1855, Semmes was assigned to lighthouse duties until 1861, when Alabama's secession from the Union prompted him to resign from the U.S. Navy and serve the Confederacy.

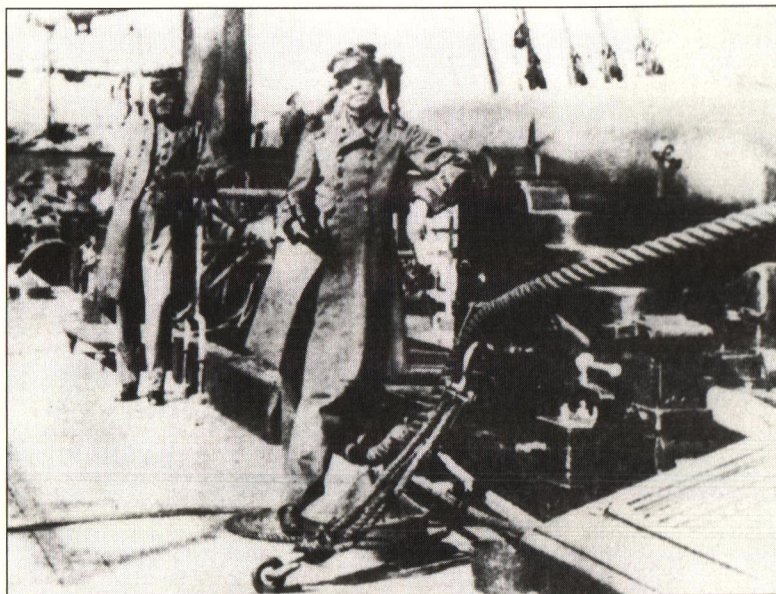
During the Civil War, Semmes became a famous sea raider. Appointed a commander in the Confederate Navy in 1861, Semmes was sent to New Orleans to convert a steamer into a cruiser, the *Sumter*. He began running Union blockades in 1861 and launched a career of raiding that is without equal in American naval history. During the *Sumter's* operations in the West

Indies and the Atlantic, he captured 18 merchant vessels and skillfully eluded pursuing Union warships. With his ship badly in need of overhaul, he brought her to Gibraltar in 1862.

After making his way to England, Semmes was promoted to the rank of captain and given command of the British-built raider *Alabama*. For 22 months, the intrepid *Alabama* prowled the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, destroying and capturing Union ships. In all, she took 69 prizes during this period, exasperating the Union Navy and driving shipowners into a near frenzy.

The depredations of the *Alabama* came to an end in the spring of 1864, when the Union's *Kearsarge* caught up with her off the coast of France. A fierce battle took place outside the French port, and within an hour Semmes was wounded and the *Alabama* was a sinking wreck. The *Kearsarge* captured some of the *Alabama's* crew, but Semmes and others were rescued by a British yacht and taken to England, thus escaping the clutches of the Yankees. (Divers recently discovered the remains of the *Alabama* and raised numerous artifacts, including the ship's bell.)

Semmes made his way back to the Confederacy and was promoted to rear admiral in 1865, commanding the James River Squadron during the last months of the war. Soon after the fall of the Confederate capital in Richmond, Virginia, the South lost its ships. The Union's onslaught combined with the South's economic depredations and lack of manpower soon required Semmes' abilities on the battlefield. He was made brigadier general and led his sailors as an infantry force. Briefly imprisoned after the conflict, he went on to work as a teacher and newspaper editor before returning to Mobile to pursue a legal career. He died on August 30, 1877. •



**Captain Raphael Semmes, pictured here aboard the Confederate raider *Alabama* in 1863, was a wily blockade runner during the Civil War.**



until April 1851, and regrettably did not send plaster casts of the dies to the Navy for review prior to striking. Ten gold and 100 silver medals were struck and sent to the Navy. Department officials immediately discovered that their instructions to the Mint regarding the reverse legend had not been followed. The medals were immediately returned to Chief Engraver Charles Cushing Wright with orders to correct the inscription. The botched issues were remelted, and the bullion was used to produce revised pieces.

The obverse of the *Somers* medal shows the capsized ship lying on her port side, with the legend above reading SOMERS NAVIS AMERICANA, "American Ship *Somers*," and in the exergue ANTE VERA CRUZ/DEC. 10<sup>TH</sup> 1846. The reverse shows foreign boats coming to the aid of the disabled vessel; above is the requested legend.

In 1861 bronzed-copper specimens of the medal were offered for sale to the public. A few silver medals also were mistakenly struck and sold. (There was a general Mint prohibition against striking national medals for sale in the original metals.)

The silver *Somers* medals—the type presented to foreign naval rescuers—are quite rare, as are the original, incorrect versions. Apparently about 90 bronzed-copper copies of the medal were produced. Three varieties—a bronzed-copper specimen of the original design, and silver and bronzed-copper copies of the final version—were sold at Stack's "Americana" Auction in January 1999.

The *Somers* medals are fascinating souvenirs of an ill-fated ship. The scene of the only recorded mutiny in United States naval history in 1842, she met her end suddenly four years later with heavy loss of life. Even the medals awarded by a grateful United States to the naval observers who rescued seamen from the sinking *Somers* underwent a painful and laborious production process. Yet, the pieces are beautiful in their own right, capturing a remarkable moment in American history. •

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*A retired employee-relations manager for General Electric, Thomas H. Sebring divides his time between Pennsylvania and Arizona. His most recent article for THE NUMISMATIST, "Henry Morgan: From Pirate to Statesman," appeared in the September 1999 issue.*



Actual Size: 56mm

The corrected version of the *Somers* medal took some effort to achieve. The original die with the error reverse could not be corrected, and a new die was made. It cracked while being hardened, and the U.S. Mint's chief engraver, Charles Cushing Wright, had to execute yet another die to strike the required gold and silver medals.





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 6 Also check appropriate box under grading tier and/or service. If chosen. Applies to all coins on this

Quantity	Country	Coin Date	Denomination	Mint-mark	MS or PF	Variety Designation for VarietyPlus (tier+\$5/coin) or Mint Error	Minimum Grade	Declared Value	Certification # for ReGrade/CrossOver/PhotoProof	PhotoProof Y/N
1						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
2						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
3						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
4						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
5						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
6						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
7						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
8						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
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10						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
11						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
12						<input type="checkbox"/> VarietyPlus				
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 3. Coins w/ PHOTO PROOF \_\_\_\_\_ x chosen PP tier price \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Imaging fee (all coins in form, if chosen) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Return Postage/Handling/Insurance (table at left) or Overnight (ship via above) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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# A Biblical Forerunner of the First True Coins

Sealed bags of precious-metal ingots are mentioned in the Bible and may have circulated as money in Asia Minor as early as 2250 B.C.

by Marvin Tameanko  
ANA 161511

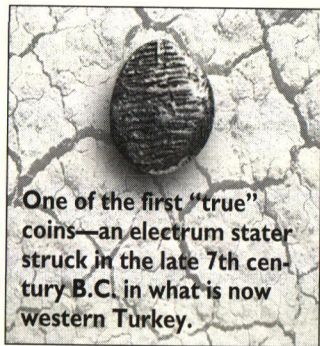


VER THE YEARS, numismatists and historians have described several venerable ancestors of the first ancient, true coins. In very early times, these consisted of animals, rare seashells, cloth, tools, weapons and salt. Several sources state that the earliest form of trade was based on the bartering of these items for other merchandise. In many parts of the world, this barter system is still used and the same types of commodities are employed as a medium of exchange because they have a universally recognized and accepted value.

These early barter goods eventually were replaced by symbolic metal tokens that sometimes assumed the shapes of the original objects. In time, the symbolic shapes were transformed into simple lumps or rings of metal that were weighed out for each transaction. These became the common currency in trade, and when conducting his business, every merchant carried a set of scales to the marketplace.

Later, these pieces of metal were broken down into smaller nodules of precious metal and finally standardized in shape and weight and struck by some authority, such as a monarch or city council, to guarantee their purity and value. These stamped lumps of metal are considered to be the first true coins of ancient times. They provided us with the traditional and conventional definition of a coin as "a piece of material made in a convenient standard size and shape which is stamped with the symbol of some authority vouching for its weight, fineness of metal and value."

However, scholars disagree about why coins were developed in the first place. Currently, there are three common theories: 1) coins came



One of the first "true" coins—an electrum stater struck in the late 7th century B.C. in what is now western Turkey.



... MANY NUMISMATISTS BEGIN by offering the famous Egyptian metal “ring money” as the immediate antecedent of coinage as we know it.

.....

into existence to replace barter goods and to facilitate trade and commerce; 2) they were developed to pay mercenary soldiers in lieu of plunder; and 3) they were fabricated to advertise the prestige, religion or status of the rulers or cities that stamped them.

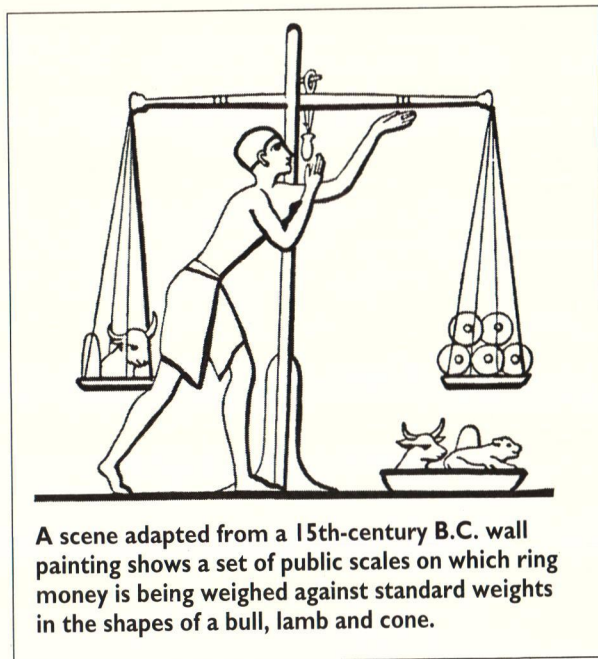
Also important to consider is the significant and vexing question of which nation introduced the first coinage and when. Although a matter of some scholarly debate, the consensus of opinion is that the Lydians of Asia Minor manufactured the first true coins sometime in the 7th century B.C. This verdict is based on the writings of 6th-century-B.C. author Xenophanes and 5th-century historian Herodotus.

This conclusion also is based on the 1904 discovery of several stamped coins in an archaeological excavation alongside their predecessors—several older, unstruck lumps of electrum. Sometimes called white gold, electrum is a naturally occurring alloy of silver and gold. (The ancients lacked the sophisticated technology needed to separate the metals.) This spectacular hoard was found by a British Museum expedition in a votive offering under the altar of the temple of Artemis in Ephesus, Turkey. Based on the temple ruins and associated artifacts found in the deposit, the coins have been dated to the 7th century B.C.

However, some historians are trying to push the date of this hoard back a century. The earliest, true coin in the hoard appears to be an electrum  $\frac{1}{6}$  stater with a striated field on the obverse and a square punch-mark on the reverse. The striations, apparently made by a roughened die, kept the coin from slipping when the punch was applied to the opposite side.

### Ring Money and a Jug of Silver

IN DOCUMENTING THE development of coins, many numismatists begin by offering the famous Egyptian metal “ring money” as the immediate antecedent of coinage as we know it. Such rings are shown in several wall paintings (dating to the 15th century B.C.) found in tombs near the ancient city of Thebes. Historians claim that these rings were cast in



A scene adapted from a 15th-century B.C. wall painting shows a set of public scales on which ring money is being weighed against standard weights in the shapes of a bull, lamb and cone.



... A SILVER HOARD ... may indicate an intermediate stage between the 15th-century-B.C. Egyptian ring money and the 7th-century coins struck in Asia Minor.

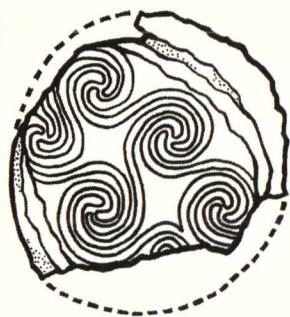
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gold, silver and bronze or lead and stamped with some symbol of the reigning pharaoh. This assumption cannot be confirmed, because no actual rings have been found.

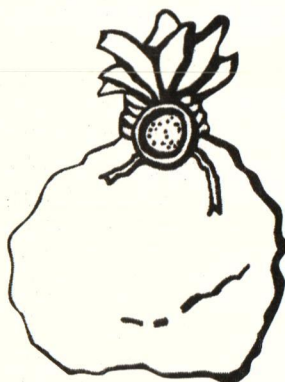
Nevertheless, the remarkable 1996 discovery of a silver hoard in the archaeological excavations at Dor, just south of Haifa on Israel's Mediterranean coast, may indicate an intermediate stage between the 15th-century-B.C. Egyptian ring money and the 7th-century coins struck in Asia Minor. This ancient cache consisted of some broken jewelry and lumps of "hacksilver" (old, damaged silver utensils and other objects

used as bullion or melted down for re-casting), but mostly small, cast, rectangular tablets that had been placed in a large, clay jug. The total weight of metal in the jug was about 19 pounds (8.5 kilograms).

The silver had been divided into 17 portions and placed in linen bags, then tied and sealed with an impressed piece of clay called a "bulla." The silver had corroded and fused into one, solid mass, but parts of the linen bags and seals remained. The jug was buried in the floor of a small building (assumed to be the home or office of a wealthy merchant) lying between two larger structures in the port area of the ancient town. The jug itself, and other pottery found with it, date the hoard to the late 11th or early 10th century B.C.

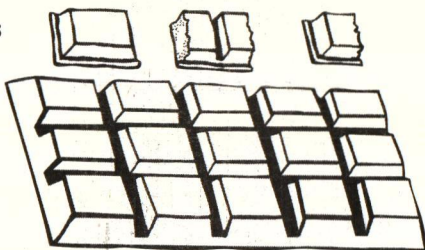


This sketch shows the Middle Bronze Age seals found on the bags in the Dor silver hoard.



A conceptual reconstruction illustrates a sealed moneybag found during the excavations at Dor.

The three silver pieces at the top, typifying those found in the hoard at Dor, may have been broken off a slab cast in the form of the conceptual piece pictured here.



### Ancient Moneybags

DOR WAS FOUNDED by the Sikils, a tribe of the "Sea Peoples" (the Biblical Philistines), who may have come from Sicily and settled in this area around 1200 B.C. The Sikil town was destroyed in the mid 11th century B.C. and replaced by a Phoenician settlement. The Phoenician culture evolved from the



... THE 19-POUND SILVER hoard was the savings and working capital of a wealthy Phoenician ship-owner and merchant who ... fled Dor during the Israelite attack.

.....

Biblical Canaanites, who were displaced by the Israelites and migrated north into modern-day Lebanon, where they became a great maritime power. Their main seaport cities of Sidon and Tyre are well known in history. The western colony of Tyre, Carthage, developed into the powerful military and commercial Punic empire.

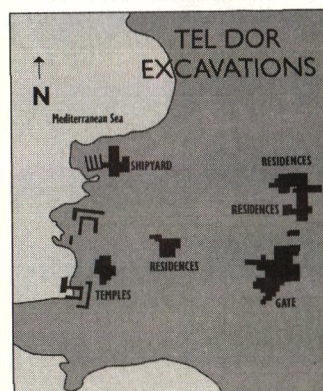
In the early 10th century B.C., the minor Phoenician port and town of Dor was captured and destroyed by the Israelites, then ruled by the Biblical King David, as they expanded their kingdom. Archaeologists speculate that the 19-pound silver hoard was the savings and working capital of a wealthy Phoenician ship-owner and merchant who buried it and fled Dor during the Israelite attack. He never returned to recover it.

This amount of silver represented a great deal of money in the 10th century B.C. The custom of dividing the sum into parts and sealing it in individual bags is mentioned early in the Bible. In the Book of Genesis, for example, Joseph's brothers came down to Egypt to buy corn. They did not recognize the Egyptian viceroy of Goshen (their brother Joseph, whom they had sold into slavery several years before), but he recognized them. Joseph decided to torment them for their evil act and, taking advantage of his role as governor, accused them of being spies. He then ordered that they be given corn and released, and that the money they paid be secretly placed in the grain sacks. When they opened the bags after returning home, they saw that their money had been returned, and they were very frightened. "Then when they emptied out their sacks, every one of them found his money-bag" (Genesis 42, 35). Such bags presumably represented a predetermined sum of money by weight, perhaps equal to a bale of corn, and the moneybag probably was sealed to keep the amount intact.

In addition, this Biblical event may confirm the belief that sealed bags of precious-metal ingots circulated as money in Asia Minor as early as 2250 B.C. Ancient documents from this area refer to local rulers making payments "in money of my seal." Since we know coins were not struck in those early days, the records presumably referred to sealed bags of precious metal that were used as money.

The seals used on the moneybags found at Dor tell an interesting story. The clay bullae show an impression of interlocking scrolls forming a geometric design. All the bags were found with this same seal, indicating they were the property of a single owner. Archaeologists determined that this seal design actually dates from the Middle Bronze Age,

*continued on page 459*



**Archaeological excavations reveal the ruins of the ancient port city of Dor, situated on the coast of present-day Israel.**



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# Saga of the California Gold Rush

OF ALL THE events associated with the Gold Rush, few topics captured the public's imagination like San Francisco's Committee of Vigilance. Whether the vigilantes worked for the common good or simply were opportunistic hoodlums has remained a topic of debate. However, the exciting activities of these self-appointed purveyors of justice were reported worldwide.

## Crime without Punishment

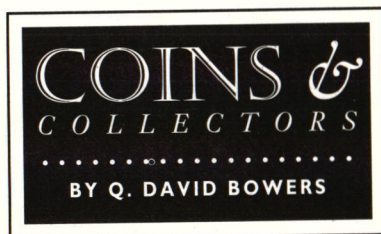
The vigilantes' story officially began on June 1, 1851, when anarchy reigned in California and crime was rampant. At least 100 murders had been committed in the San Francisco area, but not a single person was convicted. Fires were attributed to arson, yet local police could not find the perpetrators.

A gang of ruffians known as the "Sydney Ducks" roamed the streets and robbed, pillaged and attacked at will. Some policemen actually assisted with the gang's illegal activities. The Sydney Ducks was not a new entity; many members had belonged to another gang, the Hounds, which had robbed and harassed the citizenry in 1848-49.

City records of the era suggest that many convicts were deported from other countries (particularly France) and conveniently disposed of in California. In addition, California became a mecca for escaped criminals, ne'er-do-wells and social misfits from the eastern United States who often changed their names and attempted to build new lives. (Every so often, the "secret life" of a transplanted Easterner

would be exposed by the local press.)

Residents were desperate for safety and order. In response, a



group of local men, nearly 200 in number, formed the Committee of Vigilance to introduce a system of punishment for (and thus a deterrent to) crime. Each member was issued a secret number and undertook his anonymous duties with dedication.

## A Mob with a Mission

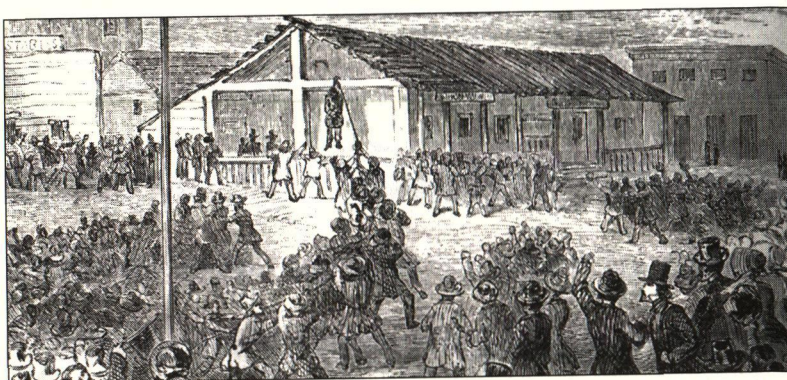
The first triumph of the vigilantes was the capture and execution of John Jenkins after he stole a safe (actually an iron box) off a wharf by cutting a hole in an office floor and lowering the box in a coffee bag into his waiting boat below. A vigilante tribunal found Jenkins guilty of the crime and strung him up from the Adobe Building.

While most San Francisco citizens realized this was, in essence, mob justice, the majority also knew that the police and the judiciary were ineffective in convicting blatant criminals. Residents were willing to give the vigilantes a chance to straighten things out.

The Committee published its members' names, taking full responsibility for their actions. The group also published its Constitution, which stated as preamble its members' objective to "unite themselves into an association for the maintenance of the peace . . . [and] no thief, burglar, incendiary, assassin [professed gambler & other disturbers of the peace] shall escape punishment . . ." Subsequently, the Committee's ranks increased by more than 700.

## The Curious Case of the \$50 Slugs

One of the most interesting cases, from a numismatic point of view, involved \$50 gold pieces (commonly known as "slugs"). In 1851 the Committee questioned Australian-born Martin Sanphy, who claimed his bride had disappeared with a considerable amount of money he had



The Committee of Vigilance's first "success" was the execution of thief John Jenkins.



brought with him to California. Sanphy testified he had been boarding with Mr. and Mrs. Connolly. When Mr. Connolly died suddenly of "apoplexy," Sanphy married the widow Jane, who, he alleged, shared her charms widely. "I know that Wilson and a man called Pat Sweeney are companions of hers. She took \$1,220 from me—in \$50 pieces except two \$10 pieces," he explained.

The Committee found that Sanphy was a member of the criminal element and ordered him to leave California. Then . . .

Mrs. Jane Connolly came before this Committee voluntarily . . . Your Committee have fully investigated the case and believe the whole matter to be a foul conspiracy on the part of Sanphy and others to destroy the reputation of said Jane as

well as to become possessed of some property belonging to her by reason of his marriage . . .

### More Missing \$50 Pieces

The Committee investigated another interesting theft. As a boarder at the Traveler's Home, James Davis had been advised by another lodger, Thomas Speeding, to entrust any valuables to the proprietor for safe-keeping. "I said it is all safe, I have the money in my pantaloan pocket," Davis remarked.

"I went to sleep and slept about an hour or so, when I awoke and found that I had been robbed: Amount lost: 10 \$50 pieces. Small coin: 85 or 90," he reported. Committee members searched Speeding's room and found about \$460 in gold.

Davis could not prove his loss, and

testimony that he was seen the following morning with three \$10 gold coins did not help his case. The Committee returned the money taken from Speeding and his wife during the investigation. Included in the total were eight \$50 gold slugs.

### The Committee Fades

The Committee of Vigilance subsided in prominence, and although the group reorganized, little vigor was demonstrated until a second committee was organized in 1856. It had accomplished its objective, weeding out corruption and bringing citizens a sense of order. However, crime increased in Autumn 1851, especially in the gold camps. As a result, a number of vigilance committees were formed in towns in the Sierras. . . . More next month! •

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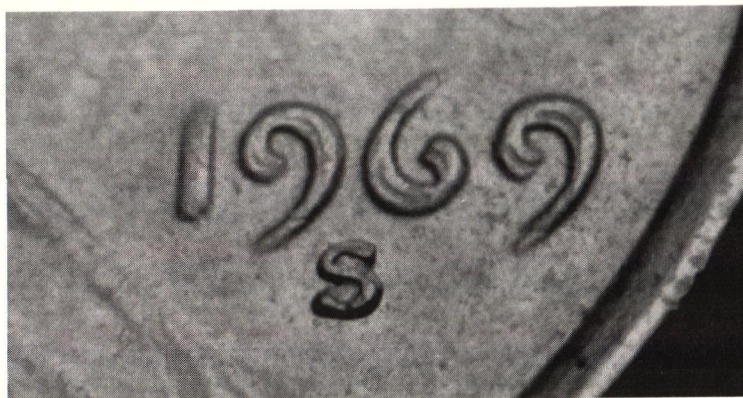
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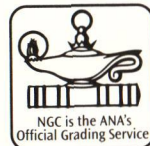
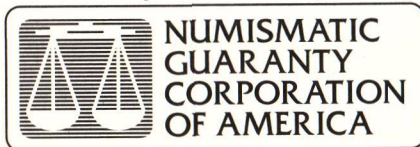
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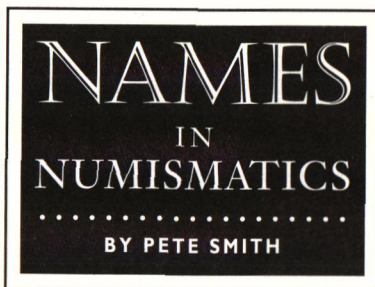
# A Visit to the Grave of Ard Browning

THIS IS A story of passion. It is passion that drives some numismatists to search for rare items to fill holes in their collection and others to study and write about those collections. And it is passion that leads some to study the authors of these works.

Carl Herkowitz has a passionate interest in the elusive numismatic researcher and writer Ard Browning. I learned of this interest when Carl and I met on a shuttle bus at the 1996 ANA Convention in Denver; his search for a Browning biography had proved more successful than mine. Carl's passion shows in articles he has written about Browning for *The Asylum*, official journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.

Browning wrote *The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States*, detailing die varieties from 1796 through 1838. Author Walter Breen de-

scribed the reference as "the most perfect numismatic book written on the first try." Just 50 copies were



published by Wayte Raymond in 1925, and few examples survive from a special edition of 10 copies fully bound in leather. John Ford created a small, second edition from unbound text and new plates printed from the original glass negatives. Modern reprints with inferior plates lack the charm of the originals.

Until recently, Browning was a

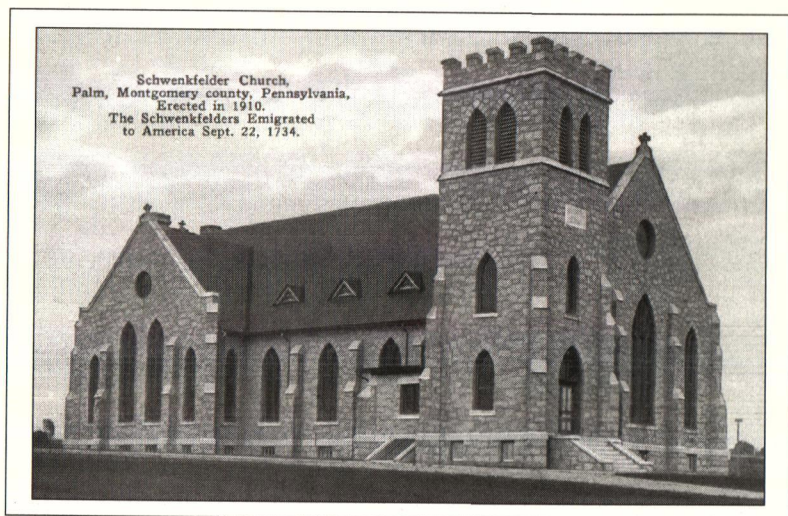
mystery to numismatists. It has been suggested that Ard Browning was a pseudonym for dealer Wayte Raymond. Although he stated that the coins illustrated in his book were from his collection, he was not known as a collector before publication, and we don't know how his collection was dispersed. Could he have written such a scholarly work without collaboration?

Carl Herkowitz found a clue to Browning's life in his address: P.O. Box 539, Islip, New York. A 1920 Census record listed Browning's residence as Central Islip Hospital, where he worked as a stenographer for 15 years. Little else came from this discovery—as provided by law, the hospital destroyed his employment record 10 years after his death.

The same census listed Browning's state of birth as Illinois. Herkowitz found that Ard W. Browning was born in Chicago on January 12, 1869, the son of William H. and Mary Virgil Browning. He has conjectured that Browning's middle name was William, after his father. He also asks if "Ard" may have been shortened from "Howard," possibly his father's middle name.

Browning was an ANA member after 1925 and paid his dues in December 1932 for the following year. His failure to renew again suggested that he died in 1933. With that clue, Herkowitz located a copy of a death certificate. Browning died of pneumonia on May 24, 1933. There is no record that he ever married.

During the 2000 ANA Convention in Philadelphia, while 10,000 others were pursuing their passion for the commercial side of numis-



A post card depicting the Schwenkfelder Church in the village of Palm, Pennsylvania, recalls the final resting place of elusive researcher/author Ard Browning.



matics, a group of four set off to find the grave site of Ard Browning. Herkowitz and his wife, Barbara, Scott Rubin and I followed directions obtained from the secretary of the Schwenkfelder Church in Palm, Pennsylvania. (The directions were crucial since the town is too small to appear on most maps.)

The village of Palm consists of a few buildings on either side of a winding highway. Behind the Schwenkfelder church is a graveyard, and beyond that lie cultivated fields and rolling hills. (Residents are fighting a proposal for a new power plant whose tall stacks would ruin the view.)

Ard Browning is buried next to his brother Charles and sister-in-law Anne. While Herkowitz was studying the resting place, I noticed the

nearby grave of Ard's niece Helen Browning Kratz. Subsequent research shows that the Browning family line ends with that generation. Curiously, none of the family were members of the church.

Browning's obituary in an area newspaper mentions that he formerly resided in East Greenville, a few miles down the road from Palm. Apparently his brother lived in the area and brought Browning home to be buried with his family. Many gaps must be filled in Browning's life. I suspect more will turn up as other leads are followed.

We still have little insight into Browning's personality. Was he reclusive and non-communicative with other numismatists by choice? Was he gregarious, but just avoided getting his name in print? Was nu-

mismatics just a small part of a life that was rich in other activities? Perhaps the next revelation will turn up in Chicago or East Greenville, or in a totally unexpected location.

Without readers who appreciate it, a book is merely an object. On that sunny day last August, four pilgrims paid tribute to Browning, who may have been lost but not forgotten by his numismatic community. Along with his passion for Browning, Carl Herkowitz passed this appreciation on to the rest of us.

After the convention, I found a post card of the Palm Schwenkfelder Church offered on eBay™, and I had to have it. I guess it brought a little of my own collecting passion to the surface. The post card will serve as a reminder of Browning and our visit to his grave site.

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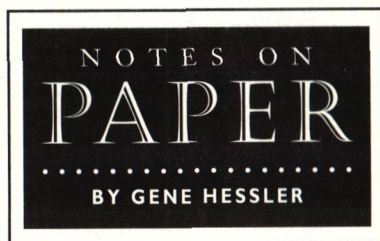


# Benzing Engraved Familiar Memorial

**W**HEN COIN collectors make reference to the Lincoln Memorial motif on United States money, they generally have in mind the cent reverse that was introduced in 1959. The design, bearing engraver Frank Gasparro's initials, gives this issue its name: the Lincoln/Memorial cent. However, such is not the case for another artist's rendering of the Lincoln Memorial that appeared on United States currency issued more than three decades before Gasparro's appeared and has lasted another four decades afterward.

A vignette of the Lincoln Memorial, engraved by Joachim Benzing,

graced all U.S. small-size \$5 notes from their introduction in 1928 until they were redesigned with Series



1999. (The new \$5 notes also bear a rendering of the Lincoln Memorial.)

Born in Ellicott City, Maryland, on November 19, 1880, Joachim Clarence Benzing was named after

his father. He was married to the former Emily Cusworth; their son, Norman Lloyd Benzing, was born in Washington, D.C., in 1908.

At 14 years of age, Benzing studied clay modeling with George T. Morgan, medalist and later chief engraver of the United States Mint (1917-25). Benzing learned engraving under James Blakie, and in 1895 he apprenticed at E.A. Wright Company in Philadelphia. Immediately after his graduation from Drexel Institute in 1900, Benzing began his career in engraving at American Bank Note Company.

Five years later, Benzing found himself working at the United States

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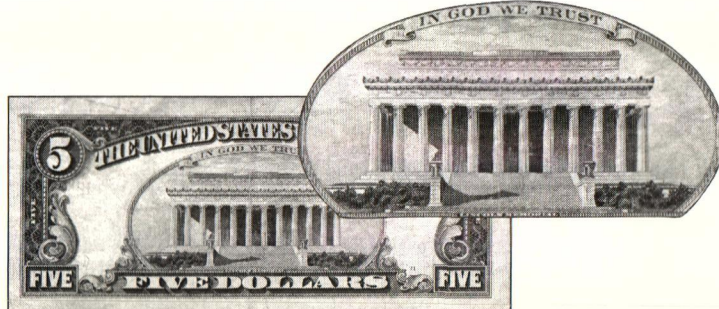
Thomas  
Caldwell  
ANA LM #1318



Joachim Benzing's work included the familiar portrait of Thomas Jefferson for the small-size \$2 bill and the Lincoln Memorial for the back of the small-size \$5.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing. He was appointed chief of the Engraving Division there in 1933 and retired in August 1943. He died in Florida on January 15, 1970.

Benzing engraved the portrait of Thomas Jefferson used on all U.S. small-size \$2 notes, also introduced in 1928. He created the female head that was chosen for the back of the Series 541 \$5 Military Payment Certificates. He also engraved motifs for two Philippine postage issues, rendering a post office for a 4-cent stamp and a rice-planting scene for a 20-cent stamp.

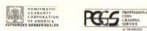


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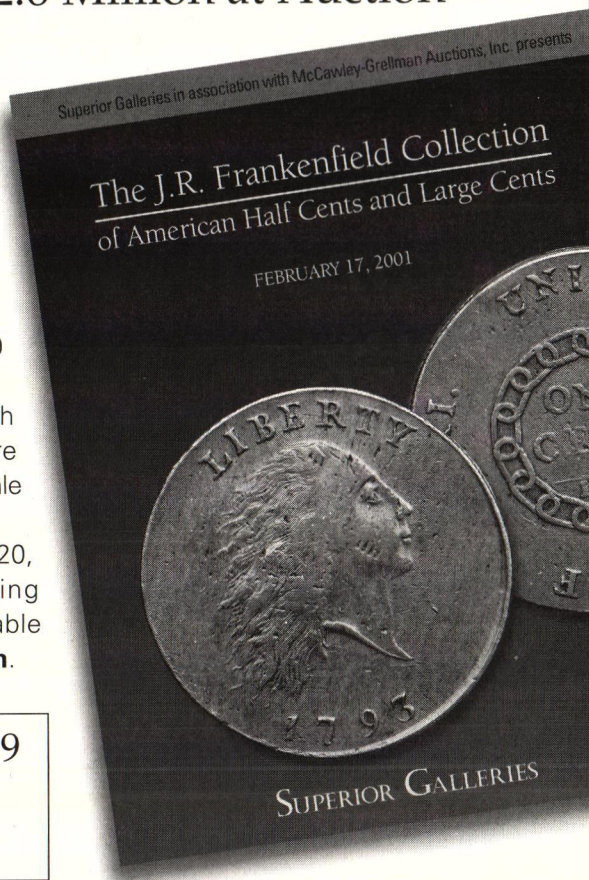
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# To Clip or Not to Clip

**I**N FEBRUARY I discussed the practice in medieval England of cutting silver pennies into halves and quarters to create small change (halfpennies and farthings, respectively). However, some citizens subjected the king's coins to even greater indignities.

They carefully clipped metal from the perimeter of the pennies, preserving the short cross on the reverse and as much of the legend as possible. They took pains to maintain the coins' round shape and avoided trimming them too small, lest they no longer pass for a penny.

After squirreling away an ounce or two of the silver crescents and slivers,

these enterprising citizens hied themselves to the nearest mint to surrender their ill-gotten gains to the mint-



master. Later, they could return to the mint to request fresh money, presumably struck from the gleanings. Or, they might immediately receive new coins equivalent to the value of their returns, discounted, of course,

for the convenience of the ready exchange (and minus certain fees for the moneyer and the king).

The king was not amused! In 1247 Henry III (1216-72), recognizing the shortcomings of the short-cross motif, abandoned the centuries-old, common practice of keeping it within an inner circle on the reverse. He replaced it with a long cross that extended through the legend to the edge of the coins, thus deterring the practice of clipping. The new principle was effective enough to warrant its use for the next 400 years.

Having the best-quality coins around was no boon for Britain. English silver coins were eagerly sought



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Not Actual Size

In an effort to deter the popular, though illegal, practice of "clipping" during the reign of Henry III (1216-72), the "short cross" penny (left) was redesigned so the arms of the cross would extend to the edge of the coin (right).

AUTHOR'S COLLECTION

by trade partners and widely imitated throughout Europe and even the Middle East. Lightweight foreign coins of inferior silver or base metal, often meant to deceive, inexorably made their way to England. (Given

the debased quality of coins on the Continent, clipping was not the problem there that it was in England.)

So pervasive was this low-quality currency that frequent recoinages—three in the 13th century alone—

were ordered. Sixteen additional mints were opened in England around 1248 to expedite the "recycling" of coins, whereby citizens were expected to surrender their money, sometimes by weight and sometimes by face value. They were given newly fashioned pence in return, but such exchanges seldom were expeditious and rarely worked to their advantage.

For England, however, there were significant benefits. The inferior coinage, once refined to the prescribed standard, provided a fresh supply of silver for the treasury, and the crown realized greater seigniorage, or profit, from the new issues.

In June I will take a look at the steps taken in medieval Europe to maintain the fineness of coinage. Until then, *ave atque vale!*

## 1859 DIME "THE COIN WITHOUT A COUNTRY"

1859 Obverse/1860 Reverse

*listed on page 126, A Guide Book Of United States Coins*

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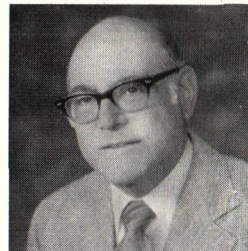
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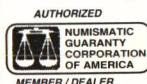
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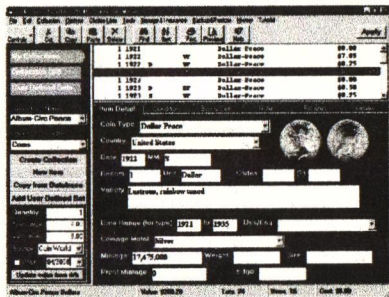
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# Reading and Collecting the Electronic Way

**T**HE OTHER DAY, I got involved in a discussion in the Internet [rec.collecting.coins](http://rec.collecting.coins) newsgroup about the possibility of making *The Numismatist* available electronically. ANA staff has been investigating such a project for some time. It's a huge undertaking and not as cut-and-dried as it might seem. In March, the ANA Board of Governors was scheduled to consider a proposal for producing an electronic version of all 114 volumes of *The Numismatist*, so by the time you read this, a decision likely will have been made.

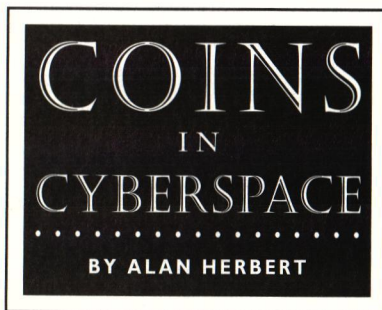
## Bits and Bites

◆ Well over 50 percent of American households now have access to the Internet; however, for those of us who are 65 or older, that figure drops sharply to 15 percent. Since ANA demographics indicate that the average member is in his or her 50s, I estimate that about 20 percent of this group has access. That figure undoubtedly will increase at a fairly steady pace, as indicated by the number of collectors who join the ANA from our web site ([www.money.org](http://www.money.org)). But, given the number of older members, I doubt that Internet usage will climb quite as fast as it has among the general public.

One thing I do know . . . a lot of people got new computers for Christmas, and many of them are out there asking questions. The slowdown of the economy undoubtedly will affect computer purchases, but how this will impact ANA member involvement on-line remains to be seen.

◆ Need a knowledgeable source for information about exonomia? Do

you even know what exonomia is? Then you probably aren't familiar with Russ Rulau, a prolific author of



of books on tokens. He "coined" the word "exonomia" many years ago to denote those objects that aren't quite money, yet have a connection to coins, such as medals and tokens. The term caught on and has become part of our hobby vocabulary.

One of the few dealers who specialize in exonomia is Rich Hartzog, who started in the business long before exonomia was an accepted term. His web site ([www.exonomia.com](http://www.exonomia.com)) has a lot going for it, and it's popular with collectors. It offers an extensive set of links to associated web sites, and Rich says that his chart detailing initials of fraternal orders is quite a favorite with visitors. He highlights shows attended by exonomia dealers and posts lists of stolen material that could be a big help to someone checking a purchase.

◆ Incidentally, over the past two years the ANA Board has discussed posting lists of stolen coins on the Association's web site. A somewhat controversial topic, there are arguments both for and against. A key factor is the substantial amount of time required to maintain such a list

and keep it up-to-date.

I can speak to another problem from direct experience. A bank note offered in an on-line auction was included in a posted list of stolen material (the serial numbers were identical). I notified the seller, only to find out that the note in question (and a number of others) had not been stolen and was listed by mistake. Fortunately, the seller ignored me—and didn't sue—so the incident ended well, but easily could have turned into a big mess. (Do I need to repeat that you shouldn't believe everything you read on the Internet?)

◆ One adverse effect of the fallout in the dot.com industry is that many, if not most, of the independent service providers who offered high-speed Internet connections (DSL) have gone broke, leaving the field to the "Baby Bells." The immediate result has been rate increases. I haven't heard any complaints from ANA members, but industry publications have commented on the situation. Even mighty America Online, Inc. (AOL) is considering tapping its 27 million members for more money.

Oddly enough, T-1 lines (dedicated, high-speed telephone connections often favored over DSL lines) have dropped significantly in price, from as much as \$1,500 per month to (according to one industry source) just \$50 in one particular area. That's on a par with some of the more expensive DSL services. Ah, the price of competition!

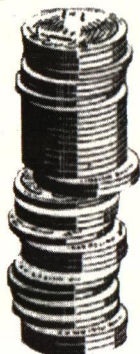
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# Spread the Word about Numismatics

EVERY YEAR WHEN National Coin Week rolls around, I begin thinking about how I can get the word out to the general public about our wonderful hobby. Club talks, exhibits, and presentations to school classes and community groups all are good ideas, but I keep asking myself what would make a really lasting impression on my community.

This year, National Coin Week will be celebrated on April 15-21. It is an annual event sponsored by the American Numismatic Association during which collectors rally round to share their interest in coins with others, and to let the rest of the world know more about the educational, artistic and entertainment value of unusual coins.

If you would like to be part of the celebration this year, you can focus attention on our hobby and build a new level of interest in collecting in a very simple way. Each of us need only accept, spend and pass on all the different kinds of money that are now in circulation.

If that sounds much too easy, ask yourself if you have been hoarding the new State quarters or forgetting to spend a few \$2 bills now and then. Have you been using Sacagawea dollars? Are you encouraging others to look for these items in their pocket change?

This week, for the first time in many months, I received a half dollar in change. For a moment, I was tempted to save it, but then realized that some beginning collector would appreciate it much more than I. It reminded me to pick up more Sacagawea dollars the next time I go to

my bank. They always have some on hand, and I have never had anyone refuse one in payment. In fact, most



people say they are going to save it. I get a great deal of enjoyment out of spending the new dollar coins because they always make the recipients take a closer look at their money.

If all ANA members would make a concerted effort to use Sacagawea dollars, 50 State quarters, \$2 bills, and an occasional obsolete coin or two in everyday transactions, it would increase public awareness of the many and varied kinds of numismatic items available to collectors. Expanding interest in the hobby is the only way to ensure its future. It is a self-serving effort to keep interest in numismatics alive.

National Coin Week can show the world how large the ANA membership is and help grow the hobby. Who could ask for anything more?

## File #675

When I saw this ad for "The First Ever U.S. Legal Tender \$2 Bill In 22 Kt Gold!" I was incensed. This ad blatantly claims to be selling a 2001 version of the United States \$2 Silver Certificate first issued in 1899, when everyone in the hobby knows there is no such thing. The advertised item is called a "Gold Cer-

tificate" because it contains some gold and is somehow struck in "Proof condition."

I quickly lost count of the number of numismatic blunders in this ad and wondered how it made its way into a prominent weekly publication. This so-called \$2 Legal Tender bill supposedly is struck in 22kt gold and is the same size and design as the original note. Although the promoters say the bill is exceptional, the illustration does not do justice to the beautiful portrait of George Washington and allegorical figures of *Mechanics* and *Agriculture* found on the face of the real note.

I failed to be impressed by the claim that the surface area has 46.06 square inches of gold. I also didn't find this to be much of a bargain, even though the firm would throw in a second Gold Certificate, in .999 pure silver, free, if I sent \$45. There have been many changes in the designs on real U.S. currency lately, but this is not one of them.

## File #676

It is amazing how many new coins are made in the tiny country of Liberia. Every year Liberia releases several designs to commemorate everything from the "Air Force One Boeing 707" to "The Most Important Events in the Civil War." Most of the coins have a face value of \$10 (Liberian dollars), and it is doubtful that any are ever seen in that country. Some are made of silver, and the ads make them look like 1-ounce rounds. Actually, the coins measure only about an inch in diameter and contain only a few dollars' worth of silver.



To their credit, these pieces are true coins, even though they do not circulate. They are made and promoted by interests in the United States for sale through national advertisements. I have seen them offered in ads at face value (\$10) for the first piece; and \$39.95 to \$49.95 each (plus shipping) for others that will be sent to you on approval thereafter. Be sure you understand what you are buying when you send for any of these commemoratives.

#### File #677

A recent newspaper article expressed the concerns of many people who have seen low returns on investments this past year. The article actually is a paid ad, or, as the footnote says, "a dramatization of every day frustrations experienced by many

consumers." It tells how unfair it is to receive a 6-percent return on CDs when banks are charging more than 17-percent interest on credit-card balances. This is, of course, comparing apples to oranges, but the ad made it sound like highway robbery.

As an alternative, you are invited to send for a free report, "The Secret Alternatives to CD's." I could not talk to anyone on the phone about what this secret is, and I did not want to give them my address, so I still am at a loss to learn what "bankers hope I will never hear about!"

I did figure out that this scheme must have something to do with converting my investments to precious metals that the promoters are willing to sell me at inflated prices. Don't call for more information—the number has been disconnected. •

### PLANNING A VISIT TO THE ANA MONEY MUSEUM?

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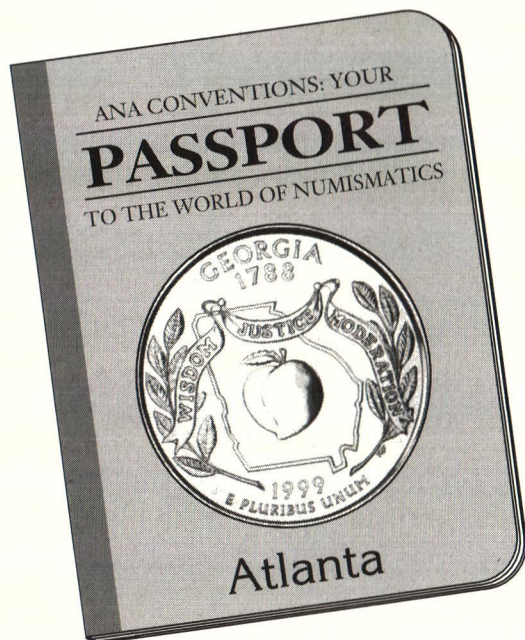
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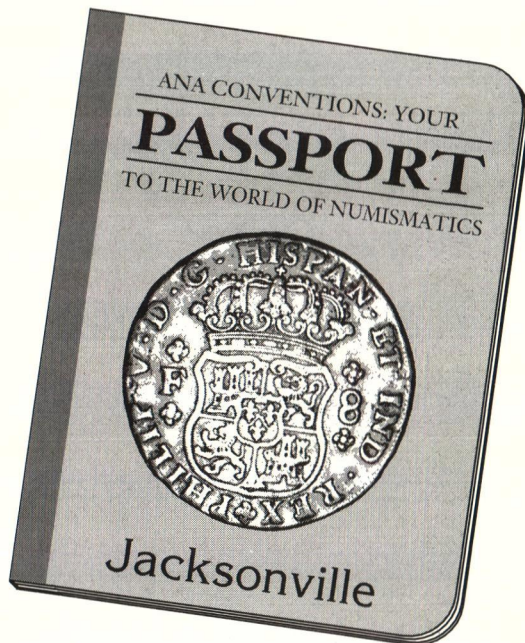
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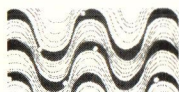
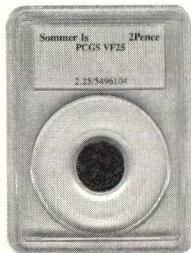
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## The 1974 Aluminum Cent

*continued from page 392*

By February 25, 1974, the legislation had made its way to the Hill and the Mint was getting ready for a trial run at its Philadelphia facility. That day, the Mint's resident auditor, J.A. ("Jim") Morgan, postulated to the chief of the Mint's internal audit staff, William Humbert, "These coins must be considered experimental, and as such, must be accounted for."

Significantly, Morgan noted that keeping track of the coins, even under "optimum conditions," was impossible. "Counters on the coin presses are inaccurate, and there are too many areas where coins can be lost, either in the machinery itself or the surrounding areas."

This was a significant legal admission, because it demonstrates that the Mint never had a handle on the number of coins produced, the number destroyed, or even the number that might have left the Philadelphia Mint. Morgan went on to say that he "concluded that production of a large number of aluminum pennies in the Pressroom would make it probable that some aluminum coins would leave the Mint either by accident, or intent."

Goldman was consulted and reportedly agreed it was not possible to account for all the coins. Humbert then wrote to Mint Deputy Director Frank MacDonald on March 8, 1974, saying that he shared Morgan's concern "about not being able to fully account for these coins." Humbert made specific references to what must have been oral reports about "various possibilities, such as blanks getting hung-up in the equipment and later coming out with regular coins, experimental coins being



**Numismatic News was the first hobby publication to carry the story of the 1974 aluminum cent that surfaced in February 2001.**

lost under the equipment, etc."

According to a report from Humbert to MacDonald dated June 2, 1974, a total of 1,441,039 aluminum coins were minted between October 17, 1973, and March 29, 1974. Destruction of "all but 59 of these coins was completed on April 2, 1974." Receipts indicated that 36 of the coins were charged to MacDonald, 21 to Dr. Goldman, and 2 to Seymour Rosenbaum "on a receipt obtained by Office of Technology staff."

Humbert reported that production resumed on April 12, with an additional 130,128 coins being struck by May 30. "During the period April 12-June 4, 1974, 130,061 of these coins were destroyed. The balance of 67 coins has been retained by the Office of Technology" (65 were placed in a safe at the Philadelphia Mint, and 2 were charged to Dr. Goldman).

However, of the total number of specimens charged to Goldman's office, three were unaccounted for, and five were missing from the Office of Technology safe. In addition, Humbert wrote to MacDonald, "The records show that 12 persons have possession of 22 of the coins that are charged to you. I recommend that a recovery effort be made to avoid possible future questions

concerning their disposition. . . . Dr. Goldman claims that you and he gave three coins that are missing from his office to Mr. Simon for Secretary Schultz [sic]." (The October 23, 1973, memo noted, however, that only two examples were given to Simon.) "No explanation has been given for 5 coins that are missing from the Office of Technology."

Significantly, a June 19, 1974, memo showing "disposition of aluminum pennies charged to F.H. MacDonald," received from the director's office, showed 14 on hand and 22 in the possession of others, among them Senator William Hathaway (D-Maine), chairman of the Senate's ad hoc Minting and Coinage Subcommittee (1 coin); Senators Robert Taft (R-Ohio) and Joseph Biden (D-Delaware), members of the subcommittee (2 coins each); Jim Clawson, deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury (2 coins); Mary T. Brooks, director of the Mint (2 coins); and Betty Higby, superintendent of the Denver Mint (1 coin).

### Presenting the Case for Aluminum

ON MARCH 27, 1974, the House Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs of the House Banking and Currency Committee heard public testimony regarding the plan to change the composition of the cent from bronze to aluminum in answer to the rising price of copper that threatened the profitability of the U.S. Mint's most-called-for coin. The testimony was heard in the Banking and Currency Committee's commodious hearing room in the Rayburn Office Building, one of the marble palaces built on Capitol Hill. The standard subcommittee hearing room was too small for this media event, which attracted the press, television and radio. (I was invited to give testimony



and was thrilled to be part of this historic event.)

Representative Leonor K. Sullivan (D-Missouri), chair of the subcommittee, was in attendance, along with Mint Director Brooks, Deputy Director MacDonald, Assistant Director for Public Affairs Roy C. Cahoon and a phalanx of aides. They brought with them two aluminum cents (presumably the specimens charged out to Goldman by the Office of Technology), which were glued to black cardboard. Blank aluminum planchets were handed out freely. Also present was a representative of the vending-machine industry, who effectively demonstrated that the aluminum cents were not compatible with most equipment. Ultimately, the proposal was consigned to the dustbin of history.

## Sticky Fingers

MEANWHILE, THE "PENNY retrieval program" continued. According to MacDonald, in a memo dated March 12, 1975, Mint Director Brooks agreed that "it would be best to have the Secret Service contact those who still have aluminum pennies in their possession." Subsequently, the pieces presented to Betty Higby and others were destroyed by the Mint. Four of the five pieces missing from the Office of Technology turned up in a bag of blanks in the office safe. Three other unaccounted-for specimens were found in a coin press when it was dismantled for service.

In mid April, syndicated Washington columnist Jack Anderson broke the story. Citing the missing aluminum cents, he noted that "some

distinguished members of Congress may have sticky fingers." Mary Brooks was quoted as saying, "I am not worried. The coins will show up eventually. I'm sure of that."

By July 17, 1975, it was clear the matter had gotten out of hand. A meeting was held with two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who, according to MacDonald, were "collecting facts associated with the destruction or location of . . . existing 1974-dated aluminum pennies." As specimens were tracked down and confiscated from recipients, they were turned over to Humbert for reconciliation and destruction. (Charles B. Holstein, staff director of the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee, had carried his specimens in his wallet for more than six months as a sort of good-luck charm.

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He eventually gave the coin to the Smithsonian Institution, where it resides today in the National Numismatic Collection.) On September 9, 1975, Humbert noted in a memo to MacDonald "the current status of the outstanding coins," reporting that a total of 15 specimens were outside the Mint's control.

In an effort to kill the market value of the outstanding coins, the Mint tried to convince Congress to approve the striking of a quantity of aluminum cents. However, MacDonald felt that "producing these coins now would be overkill," even though he knew that "Senator [William] Proxmire was agreeable to handing legislation to stamp some number of these 1974-dated aluminum pennies."

Several years passed, and on July

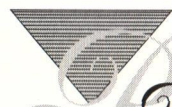
24, 1978, MacDonald wrote to the new Mint director, Stella B. Hackel, that "the FBI had been informed that five of the 'missing' aluminum pennies had recently been returned to the mint from people in Congress." It is obvious that some of the Congressional coins never were returned.

The key question, then, is "what is the status of the coins that made it to the marketplace?" There is no definitive legal answer (as it would have to be determined on a case-by-case basis), but general rules and guidelines apply. Some are derived from precedents set within and outside the Mint; all are related to the narrow, legal question of whether government property can be presented as gifts. Consider the 1879 \$4 "Stellas" that were made available to

Congressmen willing to pay their nominal value in gold, or, more recently, pre-issue 50 State quarters that were given away by U.S. Mint representatives to visitors at various numismatic conventions. In 1942 the Mint produced cent patterns in bronze, zinc-coated steel, manganese, aluminum and white metal, which were given to a variety of companies for testing, with no requirement for their return.

What does this mean for the 1974-75 aluminum cent? Only time (and the courts) will tell. •

*Past president of the ANA (1993-95), David L. Ganz is a practicing attorney and mayor of Fair Lawn, New Jersey. He has testified many times before Congress on behalf of the coin-collecting community. His last article for THE NUMISMATIST, "The Pittman Collection: Coins of a Lifetime," appeared in May 1998.*



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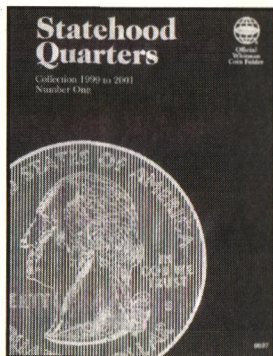
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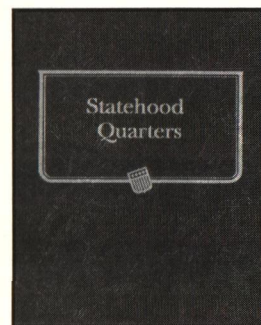
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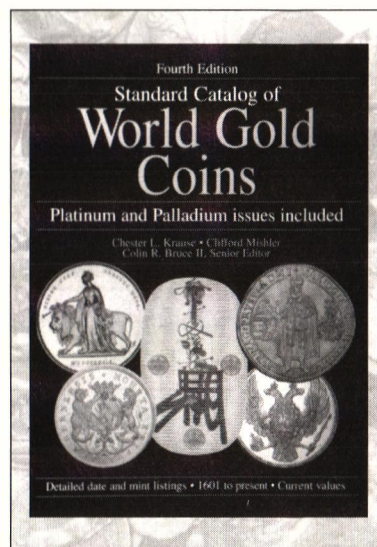
scarce set is *Numismatic Literature* (Lot 135), Numbers 1 through 104 (October 1947 to September 1980). A handsome copy of George Bates' *Archaeological Exploration of Sardis* (Byzantine coins) also is available (Lot 2), as is Johann Goethe's *Italian Renaissance Medals* (Lot 11), a first book-length edition of this important 19th-century essay.

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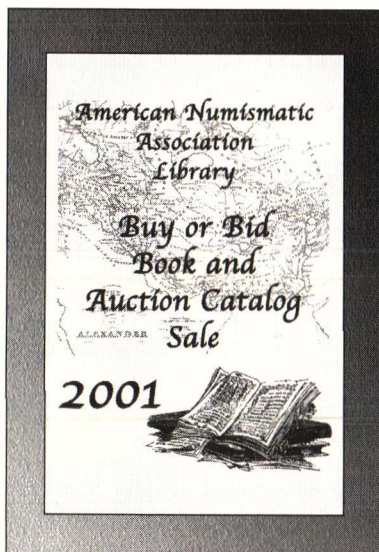


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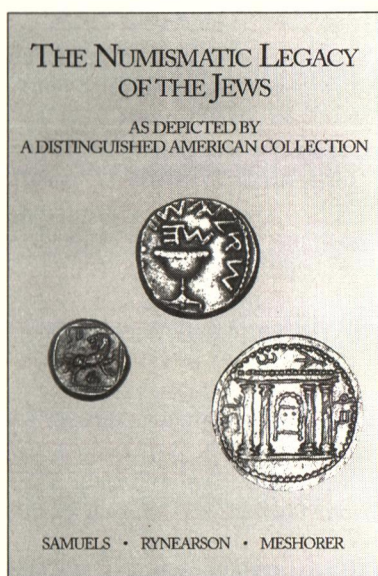
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■ Claudia Wallack Samuels, Paul Ryneanson and Ya'akov Meshorer interweave Jewish history, religion, culture and numismatics in *The Numismatic Legacy of the Jews* (ANA Library Cat. No. BD45.S2). Illustrated with more than 200 photographs of coins from the collection of Alan I. Casden, the text delves into the sociological symbolism of coin designs.

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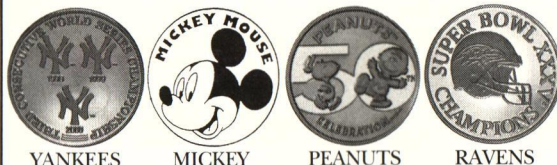
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# Membership News



## Plan Now for Atlanta Convention Exhibits

The ANA currently is seeking competitive and non-competitive numismatic exhibits for its World's Fair of Money® in Atlanta, Georgia, scheduled for August 8-12, 2001. Says Radford Stearns, exhibit chairman for the show, "The rewards of exhibiting can be very satisfying. When you prepare a display, you'll have the satisfaction of learning more about the items you love and sharing your knowledge with others. You might even stimulate interest in your collecting specialty, which could increase demand and thus the value of your material."

Stearns acknowledges that some collectors are hesitant to exhibit at an ANA convention. "Many feel that their coins aren't good enough," he says, explaining that in the ANA's competitive exhibit categories, rarity and value constitute only 10 percent of the total possible score. Other collectors are concerned that they do not have enough coins to exhibit. Stearns counters, "Some of the most effective displays I have seen feature only one or two coins or medals. What's important is how well you tell the story behind the items."

Security also is an area of concern for would-be exhibitors. "No material has ever been stolen from an exhibitor's case during an ANA show," assures Stearns. "The bourse floor

and exhibit area have round-the-clock security." However, he does caution exhibitors to be extremely careful when transporting material to and from the show. "If your coins are worth a great deal, you can arrange for an armored car to pick them up at your bank and deliver them to the convention."

Stearns offers the following tips for preparing an attractive, prize-winning display:

- Select a theme for your exhibit and convey it to the viewer through the title and introduction.

- Develop an attractive color scheme to show off your material to its best advantage. (For example, gold and silver coins look very nice against a black, velvet background, while dark, copper coins do not.)

- Label each item clearly.

- Avoid a cluttered appearance.

- Accessorize your display with maps, flags, photographs or other artifacts.

- Talk with fellow collectors and other exhibitors about your display. Learn from their experience.

Request an exhibit application and guidelines from the ANA Convention Department. Deadline for receipt of applications is June 11.

## Life Members Receive Presidential Awards

Three ANA Life Members received Presidential Awards during the month of February. Honored for their strong support and promotion of the hobby were coin dealers Jonathan Kern of Lexington, Kentucky, and Harlan White of San Diego, California. ANA President H. Robert Campbell presented the awards at the Long Beach Coin &

Collectibles Expo in Long Beach, California. Kern joined the Association in 1970; White became a member in 1963.

On behalf of President Campbell, ANA Governor Gary E. Lewis presented a Presidential Award to James E. Charlton at the Ridge Coin Club's annual show in Sebring, Florida. Charlton, who received his 50-year gold ANA membership medal last year, is well-known in the Canadian numismatic community for authoring *Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins, Tokens and Paper Money*. Although he

### ANA WORLD WIDE WEB SITE [www.money.org](http://www.money.org)

#### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Numismatic Information Network  
.....[ana@money.org](mailto:ana@money.org)  
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### American Numismatic Association

818 North Cascade Avenue  
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Telephone: 719/632-2646  
Toll-Free: 800/367-9723  
Fax: 719/634-4085



# Membership News

retired to Florida several years ago, Charlton remains active in the hobby by giving talks to local coin and service clubs.

## Five More Candidates Join ANA Race

Nominations continue to arrive at American Numismatic Association headquarters for the upcoming election of ANA officers. The offices to be vacated in 2001 because of expiring terms of incumbents, and to which new officers must be elected, are the presidency, vice presidency and all seven governors' seats. As of February 26, the following members had received the required five club and five individual nominations.

### For President and Member of the Board of Governors:

**JOHN W. WILSON**

Ocala, FL

*Nomination Accepted*

### For Vice President and Member of the Board of Governors:

**ALAN HERBERT**

Belle Fourche, SD

*Nomination Accepted*

**GARY E. LEWIS**

Cape Coral, FL

### For Member of the Board of Governors:

**M. REMY BOURNE**

Minneapolis, MN

**PATRICIA A. FINNER**

Iola, WI

**ARTHUR M. FITTS III**

Framingham, MA

**WILLIAM H. HORTON JR.**

Keyport, NJ

*Nomination Accepted*

**JERRY LEBOW**

Logansport, IN

**KAY EDGERTON LENKER**

San Diego, CA

## Registration Brisk For Summer Seminar 2001

Favored classes are filling fast for the ANA's Summer Seminar 2001, so register soon to avoid disappointment.

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# Membership News

## DONATIONS

*Contributions for January 2001*

### CASH (\$25+)

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Roland Penta  
Susan S. Pond  
James H. Prater  
Steven Garth Reid  
Joseph H. Schaffer  
Ron Stott  
Charles Tamara  
Todd Winegar

### CASH (\$50+)

Kenneth R. Bugbee  
Gerhard K. Fichtel  
Peter Gaspar

### CASH (\$100+)

Roy Brown  
Irvine Gold Mine  
Mary Morgan  
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Julian C. Nail  
Robert J. Rhue  
Charles Westin  
Robert G. Worachek

ment. The world's only school of numismatics has expanded to two, one-week sessions—Saturday, June 30, to Friday, July 6, and Saturday, July 7, to Friday, July 13.

One popular class in Session One is "Detection of Counterfeit and Altered World Coins," led by ANA Authenticator Brian Silliman. Using world coins from various time periods, students learn techniques for spotting altered coins in the marketplace. The history of counterfeiting, date and mintmark alterations, testing methods, and contemporary and modern counterfeits are but a few areas of emphasis.

Also popular is "Collecting U.S. Type Coins," with instructor David Lange presenting an overview of assembling United States coins by regularly issued types, from half cents to double eagles. Subjects explored include the rarity of coin type over the spectrum of grades, as well as variations in strike, planchet quality and toning. The class closely examines various coin types in both circulated and mint-state grades. Students are encouraged to bring their own coins for evaluation.

In Session Two, the evening mini-seminar "Grading Buffalo Nickels, Mercury Dimes, Walking Liberty Half Dollars and Morgan Dollars" is in such demand that a second has been added. Bill Fivaz, a perennial favorite at the Seminar, will offer advice on grading some of the most popular United States coins on Sunday and Monday, July 8 and 9, and again on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 10 and 11. (Class size is limited to 15. Pre-registration, as well as a \$35 fee, is required.)

Session Two "Early American Copper Coinage" introduces stu-

## ANA Donates Exhibit Cases to ANS



Display cases and other exhibit materials removed from the ANA Money Museum, which currently is in the midst of a \$3 million renovation, recently were loaded on a truck bound for the American Numismatic Society (ANS) in New York City. Says ANA Executive Director Edward C. Rochette, "We hope the ANS finds them useful. The cases, designed by The Franklin Mint, have served us well."

dents to the world of collecting half cents, large cents and Hard Times tokens. The course has reached near capacity, with copper coin experts Stephen Carr and Douglas Bird instructing. Bring a loupe and your early coppers.

David Schenkman, editor of the *Token and Medal Society* journal, will conduct "United States Tokens," a fascinating, fun-packed course that addresses a wide range of topics, such as Civil War tokens, merchants' counterstamps, transportation tokens, advertising and trade tokens,



# Membership News

## Write for THE NUMISMATIST!

**T**HE MISSION OF *The Numismatist*, the official publication of the American Numismatic Association, is to educate and provide a forum for the interchange of ideas. It serves as a refreshing review for the experienced collector and as an introduction to essential concepts for the less experienced. The staff and contributing editors of *The Numismatist* welcome the opportunity to review well-written, well-conceived articles displaying original, documented research.

Submitted manuscripts should be relevant to the study of numismatics, present new information, and/or constitute a contribution to numismatic education. The American Numismatic Association purchases first North American serial rights. *Manuscripts are accepted with the understanding that they have not been submitted to or published by other publications.* Manuscripts should be typed and double-spaced on 8½ x 11-inch, white bond paper. Submissions on 3½-inch computer diskette are preferred, provided they are formatted in ASCII (with no carriage returns) and accompanied by a letter-quality hard copy. Authors of articles published in *The Numismatist* receive \$3 per column inch, with bonuses available to those who provide usable illustrations and/or furnish material for photographic reproduction.

Manuscripts, including illustrations, should be sent to the Editor, *The Numismatist*, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279.

and 19th-century merchant tokens. Bring your specimens for study, and discover why token collecting has reached new heights of popularity in recent years.

The 33rd Annual ANA Summer Seminar is conducted on the campus of Colorado College, adjacent to ANA headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Tuition, room and board (double occupancy in a dormitory) for a one-week session is just \$510 for ANA members (\$610 for non-members). Off-campus housing packages also are available. Optional tours and field trips have been arranged during and between sessions. For further information or to register for a class, contact the Education Department.



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# Membership News

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Calendar listings are published as a service to member clubs of the American Numismatic Association. Entries must be received at least eight weeks prior to the cover date of the magazine and preferably as much as four months in advance so announcements can appear in several consecutive issues. Type or print information and send to Calendar of Events, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; fax 719/634-4085; E-mail [anaedi@money.org](mailto:anaedi@money.org). Receipt of show notices is acknowledged by mail; if you do not receive confirmation of your listing, contact the Publications Department.*

### EAST

#### APRIL

**1 ALBANY, NY.** Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. Chairman J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180; telephone 518/274-4216.

**7 LANCASTER, PA.** Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Arcadia Rd. (off Rt. 72, Manheim Pike). Red Rose Coin Club 11th Annual Spring Coin Show. Kerry Wetterstrom, P.O. Box 621, Lancaster, PA 17608; telephone 717/291-9870.

**15 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY.** F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Erie County Coin & Stamp Club Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction. Rolf Hjalmanson, c/o Lazer Tree Grafics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221; telephone 716/633-4104 or 716/634-0668 (evening/weekend); E-mail [jalmar@buffnet.net](mailto:jalmar@buffnet.net).

**15 WEST HAVEN, CT.** Elks Lodge, 265 Main St. Liberty Coin Club 3rd Sunday Coin Show. Chairmen Joseph Marino,

## ANA EVENTS

**April 15-21** 78th Annual National Coin Week. Theme: "Faces of Time." Contact Education Department.

**June 30-July 6 and July 7-13** COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. Colorado College. 33rd Annual ANA Summer Seminar (two, week-long sessions). Contact Education Department.

**August 4-6** ATLANTA, GA. Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Pkwy. "How to Grade U.S. Coins" ANA Seminar. Contact Education Department.

**August 7** ATLANTA, GA. Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Pkwy. "Detection of Counterfeit Gold Coins." ANA Seminar. Contact Education Department.

**August 8-12** ATLANTA, GA. Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Pkwy. ANA 110th Anniversary Convention. Contact Convention Department.

**March 7-9, 2002** JACKSONVILLE, FL. Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water St. ANA National Money Show™. Contact Convention Department.

## NATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

**April 6-8** INDIANAPOLIS, IN. Indiana Convention Center, Halls F & G. Central States Numismatic Society 62nd Anniversary Convention. Chairman Kevin Foley, P.O. Box 573, Milwaukee, WI 53201; telephone 414/421-3484.

**April 20-22** DALTON, GA. Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd. Georgia Numismatic Association 2001 Convention. General Chairman David Crenshaw, P.O. Box 1021, Lilburn, GA 30048-1021; telephone 770/934-2610.

**May 10-13** FT. WORTH, TX. Amon Carter Center/Will Rogers Complex, 3401 W. Lancaster @ University. Texas State 2001 Convention Show sponsored by the Texas Numismatic Association. David & Ginger Pike, P.O. Box 261748, Plano, TX 75026-1748; telephone 972/964-5520.

**May 11-13** MONROEVILLE, PA. Pittsburgh ExpoMart, Bus. Rt. 22 (Exit 6, Pa. Tpk.). Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) Annual Convention. John Paul Sarosi, 106 Market St., Johnstown, PA 15901, telephone 814/535-5766, fax 814/535-2978, E-mail [www.money.org/club-pan.html](http://www.money.org/club-pan.html).

**May 17-19** SOMERSET, NJ. Marriott Hotel & Convention Annex, Exit 10, Rt. 287. Garden State Numismatic Association Annual Convention. GSNA Show Chairman, c/o Tom Hyland, P.O. Box 28, Glenwood, NJ 07418; telephone 973/875-7926; fax 973/875-7364; E-mail [TASH@TAPNET.NET](mailto:TASH@TAPNET.NET).

**May 20** ROCKFORD, IL. Holiday Inn/Hoffman House, 7550 E. State St. (Bus. Rt. 20). Illinois Numismatic Association Spring Show hosted by the Rockford Area Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Larry Kasberger, 2419 Circle Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008; telephone 815/547-6382.

**May 31-June 3** LONG BEACH, CA. Long Beach Convention Center, 100 S. Pine. Long Beach Coin & Collectibles Expo. Leslie Harer, Long Beach Expo, 1103 State St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101; telephone 805/962-9939; fax 805/963-0827.

**May 30-June 1** LAS VEGAS, NV. Tropicana Hotel & Casino. Annual Convention held by the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club. Chairman Wayne Thompson, 191 Kentucky Ave., Lexington, KY 40502; telephone 859/252-5626; fax 859/252-9168; E-mail [wayne@casinochecks.com](mailto:wayne@casinochecks.com).

**June 9-10** SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE. Marina Inn, 4th & "B" St. Nebraska Numismatic Association 46th Annual Convention. NNA, P.O. Box 82, Omaha, NE 68101-0082.



# Membership News

179 Park St., West Haven, CT 06516; telephone 203/934-3503; or Dennis Horrocks, 64 Pearl St., New Haven, CT 06511; telephone 203/562-4956.

17 BRICK, NJ. Brick Municipal Complex, 401 Chambersbridge Rd. Ocean County Coin Club National Coin Week Show. OCCC, 65 16th St., Toms River, NJ 08753; telephone Mike Solimene 732/531-0589 (evening) or 732/255-6911.

21 ANNAPOLIS, MD. West Annapolis Fire Dept., 121 Jennifer Rd. Colonial Coin Club Coin Show. Chairman Hank Schab, 723 Melrose St., Annapolis, MD 21401; telephone 410/268-1396.

22 WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA. Dante Club, Baldwin St. (across from Eastern States Exposition on Memorial Ave.). Semi-Annual Coin Show sponsored

by the West Springfield Coin Club. Peter Setian, c/o WSCC, P.O. Box 104, West Springfield, MA 10090-0104; telephone 413/596-9871.

29 HACKETTSTOWN, NJ. American Legion Hall, Willow Grove St. Hackettstown Coin Club Coin Show. HCC Show Chairman, c/o Steve Middleton, P.O. Box 83, Boonton, NJ 07005; telephone 973/627-0705; E-mail [Smiddletoy@aol.com](mailto:Smiddletoy@aol.com).

## MAY

5-6, HERSHEY, PA. Pennsylvania National Guard Armory, 1720 E. Caracas Ave. 39th Annual Coin Show held by the Hershey Coin Club. Larry Byrd, 313 W. Main St., Palmyra, PA 17078; telephone 717/838-8730 (evening); E-mail [LarryburD@Prodigy.net](mailto:LarryburD@Prodigy.net).

6 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. Chairman J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180; telephone 518/274-4216.

19-20 CHAMBERSBURG, PA. Quality Inn, 1095 Wayne Ave. @ I-81. Annual Coin Show held by The Friendly Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Dan Knode, P.O. Box 337, Chambersburg, PA 17201; telephone 717/261-1494.

20 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Erie County Coin & Stamp Club 10th Annual Get-Together Show. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Graphics, 6589 Main St., Williamsport, NY 14221; telephone 716/633-4104 or 716/634-0668 (evening/weekend); E-mail [jalmar@buffnet.net](mailto:jalmar@buffnet.net).

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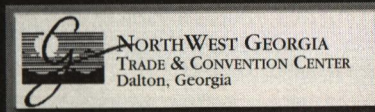
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# Membership News

20 WEST HAVEN, CT. Elks Lodge, 265 Main St. Liberty Coin Club 3rd Sunday Coin Show. Chairmen Joseph Marino, 179 Park St., West Haven, CT 06516; telephone 203/934-3503; or Dennis Horrocks, 64 Pearl St., New Haven, CT 06511; telephone 203/562-4956.

## JUNE

3 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. Chairman J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180; telephone 518/274-4216.

17 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Erie County Coin & Stamp Club Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction. Rolf Hjalmarson,

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17 WEST HAVEN, CT. Elks Lodge, 265 Main St. Liberty Coin Club 3rd Sunday Coin Show. Chairmen Joseph Marino, 179 Park St., West Haven, CT 06516; telephone 203/934-3503; or Dennis Horrocks, 64 Pearl St., New Haven, CT 06511; telephone 203/562-4956.

## SOUTH

## APRIL

7 MCKINNEY, TX. Holiday Inn, 1300 N. Central Expy. (Hwy. 75 N., Exit 40B). Semi-Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Collin County Coin Club. Gary Rol-

ins, P.O. Box 744, McKinney, TX 75070-0744; telephone 972/727-1566.

13-14 ARLINGTON, TX. LaQuinta Inn, I-30 & S.H. 360 (by Six Flags). Dallas Mid-Cities Coin Show conducted by the Dallas Coin Club. Mike Grant, P.O. Box 171719, Arlington, TX 76003-1719; telephone 817/496-2388.

21-22 BELLAIRE, TX. Bellaire Civic Center, 7000 S. Rice. National Coin Week Show held by the Bellaire Coin Club. Ed Stephens, P.O. Box 303, Bellaire, TX 77401; telephone 281/293-9907; E-mail [BigDealEd@aol.com](mailto:BigDealEd@aol.com).

27-29 ORLANDO, FL. Orlando Expo Center, 400 W. Livingston St. Central Florida Coin Club Semi-Annual Coin Show. Roger Trenkle, P.O. Box 568061, Orlando, FL 32856-8061.



## LONG BEACH

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# Membership News

## MAY

5-6 GALLATIN, TN. Gallatin Civic Center, 201 Albert Gallatin Ave. Middle Tennessee Coin Club Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Lotus DeFevers, c/o MTCC, P.O. Box 1791, Brentwood, TN 37024; telephone 615/865-8791.

12-13 MOREHEAD CITY, NC. Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell St. Carteret Numismatic Society Third Annual Coin, Stamp & Collectible Show. Bourse Chairman Kelley Nelson, P.O. Box 1775, Morehead City, NC 28557; telephone 252/222-5670; E-mail [kelemjo@coastalnet.com](mailto:kelemjo@coastalnet.com).

## JUNE

2 VICKSBURG, MS. Battlefield Inn, 4137 I-20 Frontage Rd. Vicksburg Coin

& Collectible Show sponsored by the Vicksburg Coin Club. Cason Schaffer, 107 Eastview Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39183; telephone 601/638-1195.

## CENTRAL

## APRIL

8 SPRINGFIELD, OH. Freedom Road Community Center, 1100 Sunset Ave. Clark County Coin Club Semiannual Coin Show. Ken Townsend, c/o CCCC, P.O. Box 216, West Liberty, OH 43357; telephone 937/426-8822.

29 GREEN BAY, WI. Comfort Suites/Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St. Nicolet Coin Club Spring Coin & Stamp Show. Roger Bohn, 1345 Ponderosa Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313; telephone 920/499-7035.

## MAY

5-6 LINCOLN, NE. Park Centers, Van Dorn St. & Park Ave. Lincoln Coin Club Annual Coin Show. Chairman David Willsie, P.O. Box 6711, Lincoln, NE 68506; E-mail [DFW@safety@aol.com](mailto:DFW@safety@aol.com).

6 MATTOON, IL. Burgess-Asborne Auditorium, 1701 Wabash Ave. (1 block E. of Rt. 95). Mattoon Coin Club Spring Coin Show. Robert Ohm, c/o MCC, P.O. Box 143, Mattoon, IL 61938.

20 LAFAYETTE, IN. Tippecanoe County Fairground, 1401 Teal Rd. Lafayette Coin Show held by the Lafayette Numismatic Society. Mark France, P.O. Box 851, Lafayette, IN 47902.

26 PEKIN, IL. Miller Senior Center, 551 S. 14th St. (1/2 block N. of Pekin

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# Membership News

Memorial Hospital, across from Pekin Park Lagoon). Tazewell Numismatic Society 41st Anniversary Coin Show. TNS, P.O. Box 696, Pekin, IL 61555-0696; telephone Dale O. Freidinger, 309/353-6178 or Mike Gallion, 309/535-2114.

## JUNE

10 RICE LAKE, WI. Cedar Mall, 2900 S. Main St. Barron County Coin Club Show. Sue Peterson, 119 E. Freeman St., Rice Lake, WI 54868.

17 HIAWATHA, IA. Hiawatha Community Center, 80 Center Point Rd. Hiawatha's 4th Annual Coin Show conducted by the Cedar Rapids Coin Club. Brian E. Fanton, P.O. Box 81, Hiawatha, IA 52233-0081; telephone 319/393-1192.

## WEST

### APRIL

8 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show held by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060; telephone 480/990-1007.

13-15 OGDEN, UT. Marriott Hotel, 247 24th St. Ogden Coin Club 29th Annual Northern Utah Coin Show. Chris Robertson, P.O. Box 25957, Salt Lake City, UT 84125; telephone 801/973-2300.

21-22 FERNDALE, WA. Ferndale Band Boosters Bingo Hall, 5330 Labounty Dr. Bellingham Coin Club Annual Coin & Stamp Show. Marya Welch, 2932 Sun-

set Dr., Bellingham, WA 98226; telephone 360/647-1612.

28-29 EUREKA, CA. River Lodge, 1800 Riverwalk Dr. Eureka Coin Club 35th Annual Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Bruce Pettit, 505 H St., Eureka, CA 95501; telephone 707/444-2908 or toll-free 877/237-4196.

29 ARCADIA, CA. Masonic Temple, 50 W. Duarte Rd. (next to Arcadia Library). Covina Coin Club 40th Annual Coin-O-Rama. Chairman John Lear, 732 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Glendora, CA 91740; telephone 626/852-0736.

## MAY

6 VALLEJO, CA. Solano County Fairgrounds (Solano County Bldg., Art Exhibit Room), 900 Fairgrounds Dr. @ Hwy. 37 & I-80. Vallejo Numismatic Society 29th Annual Vallejo Coin & Collectibles Show. Bourse Chairman Mike Stanley, 2107 Gill Dr., Concord, CA 94520-2232; telephone 925/825-0649.

20 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show held by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060; telephone 480/990-1007.

## JUNE

10 MERCED, CA. Merced Community Senior Center, 15th & "O" Sts. Gateway Coin Club of Merced County 28th Anniversary Coin Expo. GCC, P.O. Box 3101, Merced, CA 95344; or Joel Anderson, fax 209/722-5426 or E-mail [gatewaycc@joelscoins.com](mailto:gatewaycc@joelscoins.com).

10 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show held by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060; telephone 480/990-1007.

## CLUB NEWS

The newly formed **Madison County Coin Club** (MCCC) held its first meeting on March 26 in Huntsville, Alabama. Says President Richard Jozefiak, "The MCCC was founded to provide a forum for coin collectors, young and old, to have fun and share their knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby. The club is open to all people who like to collect coins, medals, paper money or other numismatic materials." An active collector for more than 25 years, Jozefiak is a former ANA district delegate for Central Florida and Northern Virginia, and in August 2000 was appointed district delegate for Northern Alabama.

Most club meetings will offer an educational speaker or video program, an auction, refreshments, and time to share items of interest with fellow club members. The first issue of the MCCC newsletter has been published, and programs for young numismatists are under way "to encourage young people with a hobby that has positive values that they can develop now and into their adult life," says Jozefiak.

The MCCC meets the fourth Monday of each month (except holidays) at 6:30 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center at 2200 Drake Avenue. Contact the MCCC at P.O. Box 6332, Huntsville, AL 35824; telephone 256/325-0037.

**Military Numismatists** aims to fund full scholarships for both novice and veteran collectors wishing to take a course in the club's specialty at the ANA Summer Seminar 2001 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Scholarships, valued at up to \$1,000 each,

Send listings to Calendar of Events,  
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fax 719/634-4085  
E-mail [anaedi@money.org](mailto:anaedi@money.org)



# Membership News

will cover transportation, tuition, and room and board.

The new course, titled "Military Numismatics since 1930," will be conducted June 30 through July 6 by C. Frederick Schwan and Joseph E. Boling, co-authors of *World War II Remembered: History in Your Hands, a Numismatic Study* and *World War II Military Currency*. Approximately 30 percent of the course will focus on the production, use and collection of military payment certificates (MPCs). Paper money, bonds, coins and medals also will be examined, as will emissions by all involved powers (Allied, Axis and neutral), including those for overrun areas and puppet governments, fighting forces, liberation governments and postwar occupations.

Military Numismatists has raised approximately \$3,000 and is halfway to its goal of funding six scholarships. Support consists primarily of cash contributions by individuals and dealers, and an anonymous donation of a set of Series 701 MPCs. A list of scholarship benefactors is available in the "MPC Gram," published daily by Schwan. (To subscribe, E-mail [mpcgram@yahoo.com](mailto:mpcgram@yahoo.com).)

According to scholarship guidelines, the program is intended to promote military numismatics and broaden the collector base of the military numismatic community. A candidate must be an ANA member or be willing to join the ANA should he or she be selected to receive a scholarship. The ideal candidate is a

novice military collector or one who demonstrates a substantial interest in becoming a military numismatist. Before applying for the Military Numismatists scholarship, young numismatists are encouraged to seek funding for the Seminar through a number of available national, regional or local programs.

Candidates are asked to provide a list of numismatic organizations of which they are members, exhibits they have presented and awards received, numismatic articles they have written, and a description of their current collecting interests, including their desire to study the field of military numismatics.

For guidelines or further information, or to make a cash contribution

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# Membership News

or donation of numismatic material, write to Marcus Turner, 8103 E. U.S. Hwy. 36, Suite 163, Avon, IN 46123. Send E-mail to [marcus@papermoneyworld.com](mailto:marcus@papermoneyworld.com). To learn more about Summer Seminar 2001, call the ANA Education Department at 800/367-9723, or view the course catalog at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org).

The **Nebraska Numismatic Association** (NNA) is using encased cents to promote its upcoming convention in South Sioux City on June 9-10. The horseshoe-shaped encasements read on the obverse KEEP ME AND NEVER GO BROKE/I BRING/GOOD LUCK, and on the reverse NEBRASKA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION/SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE/JUNE 9-10 2001/46TH CONVEN-

TION. The commemorative cents are priced at \$2 each, or \$6 for a two-encasement set that includes a 1956-D cent, the year the NNA was formed. All orders must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope and directed to NNA, P.O. Box 82, Omaha, NE 68101-0082.

*History of the Calgary Numismatic Society 1950-2000*, co-authored by Neil Probert and Ian Hunter, now is available from the **Calgary Numismatic Society** (CNS). Priced at \$20 postpaid, the 126-page book contains more than 250 photographs and illustrations, and chronicles CNS events, particularly the many coin shows and conventions hosted by the club. Send orders to CNS, P.O. Box 633, Calgary, Alberta T2P

2J3, Canada.

A crowd of more than 1,400 attended the **Treasure Coast Coin Club** (TCCC) 37th Annual Coin & Stamp Show in Vero Beach, Florida in January. Visitors were given 2000-D Virginia State quarters and information about the club, as well as keys to the club's "Treasure Chest." Those whose keys unlocked the chest won a folder for collecting State quarters. A special chest for young collectors was filled with coins and tokens. Trophies were awarded for winning educational exhibits. For more information about the club and its activities, contact Rolla R. Ross, c/o TCCC, P.O. Box 3373, Ft. Pierce, FL 34948, telephone 561/466-0475.

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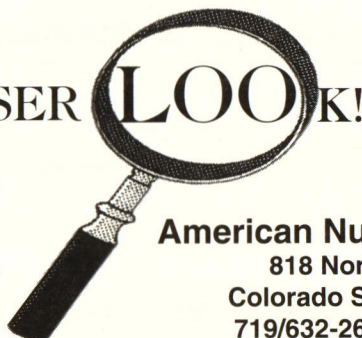
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# Membership News

## MEMBERSHIP • REPORT •

*The following applications for membership, representing membership numbers 195880 through 196325 and life members 5434 through 5443 were received before February 27, 2001. Unless accompanied by one of the following codes—A (Associate), J (Junior), JA (Junior Associate), D (Student), LM (Life Member) or CLM (Converted to Life Member)—all applications are for Regular Membership. Absence of a state heading indicates that no applications were received from that state. If within 30 days of this publication no written objections are received regarding the following individuals or clubs, their membership shall remain in effect and they shall have the right to vote.*

### PROPOSERS

Maribeth Acker (1), Duane Baxter (1), H. Robert Campbell (3), Carteret Numismatic Society (1), Michael J. Edel (1), Brian E. Fanton (3), John Thomas Faulkenberry (1), Bill Grau (1), Kevin L. Greer (1), M.P. Hagerty (1), Robert L. Hall (1), James L. Halperin (2), David C. Harper (1), Steve Ivy (2), Terry G. Lenz (1), Bernard Loebe (2), Arne Olsen (1), Giovanni Paganelli (1), John E. Page (1), James M. Pruitt (1), Wayne Rattray (2), Joel D. Rettew (1), Robert J. Rhue (1), Blake B. Roudleau (1), K.V. Seremetis (1), Cothran H. Shull Jr. (1), Jerry Stroup (1), Gar Travis (1), Fred C. Weinberg (1), John Woodside (1)

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Michelle Bottoms (J), John Lowber

### ARIZONA

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## OBITUARIES

### HERBERT SILBERMAN—ANA 56904

Herbert A. Silberman, founder of Early American Coppers (EAC), died on February 6 in Livingston, New Jersey. He was 84 years old.

A foremost expert in early United States cents, Silberman placed an ad in the November 9, 1966, issue of *Coin World*, in which he suggested the formation of a correspondence-based club to trade and discuss large cents. A year later, the EAC was formed with Silberman serving as its first president and continuing in that position until 1977. He also was a past president of the New Jersey Numismatic Society.

Born on December 13, 1916, in Newark, New Jersey, Silberman, an industrial-design consultant for commercial properties, studied at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, Pratt Institute, Newark University and New York University. In the early 1940s, Silberman was a designer/draftsman for Davis Emergency Equipment, where he developed safety equipment for use in World War II, including static-electricity and toxic-fume detectors, and a standard-issue gas mask.

His work at the National Union Radio Corporation between 1943 and 1945 led to the development of sonar, the cathode-ray tube and light-wave transmitter. From 1945 to 1946, he taught industrial design at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts.

In 1950 Silberman established General Art and Woodworking Company, and in 1960 founded Associate Designers, Inc. and Associate



# Membership News

Store Planners. He is credited with the design of thousands of commercial offices and kitchens, houses of worship, retail stores and supermarkets, including Foodtown, A&P, Shop-Rite and Big Bear.

Silberman, along with Warren A. Lapp, was editor of *United States Large Cents 1793-1857*, published in 1975. Compiled from material previously printed in *The Numismatist*, the anthology was intended to "whet the appetite" of the novice collector and "provide depth and meaning" for advanced collectors.

In the foreword, Silberman notes, "When holding the book in hand, one realizes that it represents many hours of painstaking research done by devotees of the early coppers.

Likewise, a half cent or cent dating from this early era may well have been a coin once used by one of our nation's founders, and holding it in hand brings us back full circle. I hope you will find . . . some of the romance and history associated with the early cents and half cents as well as some of the thrills and excitement which pervade this particular hobby."

Silberman is survived by his wife, Elaine; one son; one daughter; and three grandchildren.

## ROBERT E. BENDER—ANA 20132

Robert E. Bender, an ANA member since 1952, died on February 2 after a long battle with cancer. He was 90 years old.

Born on August 26, 1910, in

## PLANNING A VISIT TO ANA HEADQUARTERS?

During the renovation of the ANA's Colorado Springs Headquarters, scheduled to be completed in July 2001, Museum exhibits may be closed and Library services unavailable. Please call ahead for details.

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Zionsville, Indiana, Bender attended Purdue University, where he received certification as a horticulturist. He retired from the Herman C. Krannert Estate after 43 years in its employ. He also owned an antique shop in Zionsville for 23 years. In his spare time, Bender operated a coin shop in Glendale, Indiana, and participated in many coin shows in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

Robert Bender is survived by his wife, the former Olive Walker; one son; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

K 161187 **Leonard F. Colwell**, Sun City Center, FL (joined 7-93)

LM 1009 **Leo E. Deland**, Ft. Worth, TX (joined 3-65)

R 173615 **Louis A. Garcia**, Brooklyn, NY (joined 11-96)

R 25863 **Ted Hendrick**, Raleigh, NC (joined 5-56)

R 128272 **Lawrence E. Hipps**, Newton, NC (joined 9-85)

R 189051 **Ted B. Law**, Alderson, WV (joined 2-00)

G 14743 **Robert J. Lindesmith**, Haines, OR (joined 1-47)

LM 2893 **Robert E. Nolan**, Landover Hills, MD (joined 9-74)

K 20472 **Harper S. Patterson**, Pittsburgh, PA (joined 1-53)

K 127794 **Celia L. Podrat**, Cranston, RI (joined 2-59)

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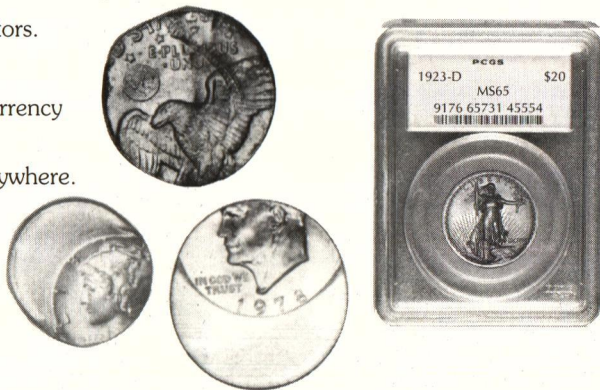
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## From Your President

*continued from page 370*

When my mom picked me up that evening, I said, "What a coin club! I'm not even a member, and they gave me my first gold coin." I traded it the next day at Wally's Coin Shop for a 1970-D Kennedy half in Brilliant Uncirculated condition and a membership in the UNS.

By the time I was 16 and driving my mom's car, I was buying and selling frosted proofs (cameos) and other coins with local dealers at shops and coin shows. When I was 17, I asked Wally for a job, saying I would sweep the floors and do anything if I could just work with him.

When I was 22, having just returned from my two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Wally offered me a job for \$1.25 an hour and coins in trade. (I think minimum wage was \$2.25 an hour.) Even though it was not much money, I knew I would learn the coin business and might someday be a part or full owner of the shop.

All this time, I was attending Brigham Young University (BYU) and juggling work and classes. I planned to be a geologist. (Like most numismatists, I also collected rocks and other things.)

I met my wife, Carol, on a blind date in May 1981, and we married the following April. She thought I was strange, especially when I took her to my safe-deposit box to show her my life savings—my coin collection stored in deluxe Dansco holders and then valued at more than \$10,000. (Six months later, I came home late one night and showed her what I had worked for all summer: a penny, a nickel and a dime—a total face value of 16 cents but a much



**That's me on the right with my mentor Wally Hopper. He proudly displayed his ANA membership plaque on the wall in his Salt Lake City coin shop.**

greater numismatic value. Now Carol *knew* I was nuts and wondered what she had gotten herself into.)

A month before Carol and I were married, Wally died at the age of 66. A year earlier, he told me I was "like a son" to him and wanted me to buy the shop. I did not have the money, but I knew a customer who might. Wally sold his shop to Jerry Harvey in 1981, and Jerry kept me on as an employee. I managed the shop for a couple of years before he sold it to Carol and me. (In an effort to keep the price down, we bought it without the inventory. I had to borrow money from my mother's long-time friend Richard Meier to afford even this.)

Carol and I took ownership in September 1983 and changed the name to "All About Coins" in 1984. (People kept calling and asking for "Wally," thinking that was my name. Carol would say "Wally's dead," to which they usually responded, "That young guy died.")

The decision to buy the shop was not an easy one. I was at a crossroads in my life. Carol and I had just been approved for married-student hous-

ing on BYU's campus, and I had a job waiting for me at the Missionary Training Center. In addition, I was close to graduating. However, Carol and I believed we could make the coin shop a big success, and we did. Retail sales doubled every year thereafter.

I joined the ANA in 1984. Since I was 12 years old and visited Wally's Coin Shop, he would point to his ANA membership plaque and say, "This is the premier organization I belong to. Maybe one day you could belong, too." I recognized his pride in being a member of the ANA.

Today I feel that same sense of pride in my own membership. I am sure Wally would smile on me now for the success the shop has had and for my service as the ANA's 51st president.

Everyone should have a mentor in this hobby. I had Wally in my youth and several others now. All of us should take the hands of new, aspiring collectors and help them along, perhaps giving them questions to answer, like Wally gave me. Who knows, you might be teaching a future president of the ANA. •





## ALEXANDER THE GREAT PORTRAIT GOLD



Last August, it took only two weeks to sell over 200 of the coins shown above. Fortunately, we were able to restock. These Greek gold staters, about 8.25 grams of near pure gold, from the cities of Kallatis and Tomis, were struck about 85 B.C. The reverse has the name of Lysimachus, the treasurer and general of Alexander's army, around an enthroned goddess Athena in full armor. EF or better, only \$877.

## GOLD FOR BRUTUS



"Et tu, Brute?"

We were also fortunately able to purchase a large hoard of gold staters, bequeathed by the Scythian King Koson's widow, from northern Thrace, to the war chests of Brutus and his republican allies in their struggle against Octavian (Augustus Caesar). These staters of near pure gold weigh about 8.5 grams and depict a procession scene copied directly from one of Brutus' silver denarii which he struck as a moneyer in 54 B.C., early in his political career. The reverse depicts the Roman eagle holding a wreath of victory in one claw, similar to Roman Republic silver and gold motifs. The monogram BR for Brutus appears to the left of the obverse figures and the dead king's name, KOSON, beneath. The middle figure is the ancestor Lucius Junius Brutus, who overthrew the last king of Rome in 509 B.C. and established the Republic. Q. Caepio Brutus (Marcus Junius Brutus) was the descendent and senator who plotted the assassination of his friend, Julius Caesar, whose personal ambition was crushing the republican government. After the fateful Ides of March, civil war broke out with Brutus, Cassius and the Republicans pitted against an alliance of Julius Caesar's nephew, Octavian, and Marc Anthony. Brutus held office in Macedonia, adjacent to the kingdom of Koson. This gold hoard was doubtless struck 43/42 B.C. as military payroll for the Republican army, which was defeated at Philippi in 42 B.C. Brutus fell on his own sword after the loss.

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# Grading Seated Liberty Half Dimes

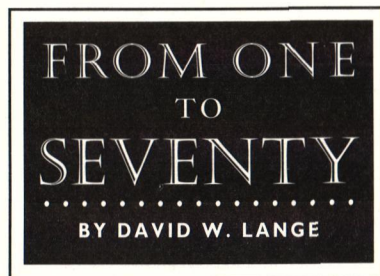
**T**HE SILVER HALF dime was the third denomination bearing Christian Gobrecht's seated figure of Liberty to appear in circulation. It followed the rare silver dollars by a few months and the dimes by just a few weeks, the first pieces being coined on July 25, 1837. Undoubtedly, this design would have remained in place through 1891 had the half dime denomination itself not been terminated by the Mint Act of 1873.

Several distinct subtypes exist for the Seated Liberty half dime series. All pieces dated 1837 were coined at the Philadelphia Mint and bore no stars. This also was true of the half dimes coined in 1838 at the New Orleans Mint. Philadelphia coins dated 1838 did display a semicircle of stars on their obverse, and these remained in place through 1859 on all Seated Liberty half dimes.

Robert B. Hughes modified Gobrecht's original Liberty figure midway through 1840, and Anthony C. Paquet furnished his own interpretation in 1859. Paquet's Seated Liberty was used solely for the Philadelphia Mint half dimes of 1859. Hughes' figure was restored in 1860, but Paquet's elaborate cereal wreath replaced the plainer Gobrecht rendering at the same time, and the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA was relocated to the obverse.

Throughout its years of production, the Seated Liberty half dime was subject to areas of weak strike. This is most commonly seen at the bottom of Liberty's shield and the adjacent base, and at her foot. On the reverse, the upper portion of the wreath (opposite these problem

spots) was subject to weakness. On many half dimes, particularly those from the latter half of the 1850s, the



denticles are not fully formed. In general, half dimes with the legend on the obverse (1860-73) tend to be weakly struck, the upper left part of the wreath rarely being complete.

Half dimes are small and lightweight, and thus more likely than larger coins to be misfed into the coin press, leading to clashed dies. The resulting clash marks have no bearing on a coin's grade, but these lines can detract from a coin's aesthetic value, and unknowledgeable collectors may mistake them for damage to the coin itself. Die cracks also are common, particularly on the early dates. Again, these do not

affect grade.

Because of their size and weight, half dimes did not suffer heavy contact marks and abrasions to the extent that larger coins did. Instead, most post-Mint flaws on uncirculated Seated Liberty half dimes are the result of careless handling or improper cleaning. Coins that have been spared such numismatic abuse typically are quite appealing.

Mint-state Seated Liberty half dimes seem to have survived in greater numbers than other coins of this type, perhaps because their low face value made them more attractive to collectors of the time. The selection of mint-state specimens is large enough to satisfy the many hobbyists who collect by type.

The ideal example is struck from unworn dies ("early die state"). It also should have unimpaired luster, meaning it has not been cleaned or, at least, not harshly so. Choosing between a richly toned and an untoned, or "white," coin is a personal decision. Toning normally does not affect a coin's grade unless it is exceptionally beautiful (in which case it can raise the grade) or just plain ugly (which can lower the grade).

Many of the same criteria apply when selecting a circulated half dime, especially in the higher grades of Extremely Fine and About Uncirculated. In lower grades, factors such as die state and striking quality are less important, though collectors still favor natural-looking coins. Half dimes that have been harshly cleaned will not be certified by the major grading services, and they can be tough to sell when it comes time to liquidate a collection. •



**Gobrecht's 1837 half dime design (left) had no stars on the obverse. Paquet's wreath appeared on the half dime from 1860 through 1873 (right).**



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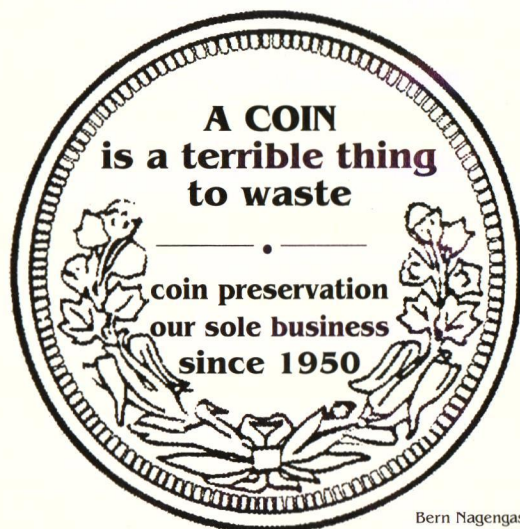
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# Readers Offer Innovative Storage Ideas

SOME METHODS OF storage are about as unique as the people who think of them. Many work quite well. You might find that some, when modified to suit your needs, are just what you've been looking for. Here are two ideas that readers recently shared with us via the Internet.

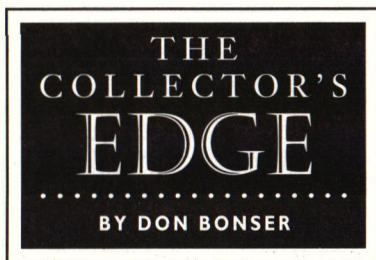
**Q.** I enjoy collecting coins, but have always worried that my investments might be rendered non-collectable or even worthless by the methods of storage available on the market. Cardboard albums are loaded with sulfur and acid. (Sure, the slides are PVC-free, but what good is that?) Plastic binder pages are loaded with PVC, screw-type lucite (acrylic) holders are just too bulky, and so on. Talking to dealers really hasn't helped me, either; they could not care less what you do with a coin after you buy it.

However, I was fortunate to read helpful articles and to talk with some knowledgeable and honest hobby-supply dealers. As a result, I came up with something I am happy with. First, I purchased PVC-free binder pages intended for 2 x 2-inch cardboard or plastic holders; they are flimsier than the PVC pages, but still a good, if hard to find, alternative. Next, I place the coin in archival Kointains™, then in 2 x 2-inch mylar flips. The coin is held firmly in place.

—A.L., via the Internet

**A.** Your method just goes to show that good ways to store coins are as numerous as the collectors who take time to think about coin preserva-

tion. This is an excellent storage method in that it uses chemically inert materials and minimizes exposure



to air and humidity.

Not all albums nowadays are loaded with sulfur and acid. Some manufacturers (though not all) make a point of using acid-free, archival-quality paper. If this is the type you prefer, read carefully before selecting your album. In the next few months, new developments in coin albums likely will be announced. Watch this column for news of what's happening.

Most supply dealers I've met are honest, hardworking individuals who want to do their utmost to sell you a product that will protect your collection. I'm a bit surprised that most coin dealers you've talked to don't care beyond selling you the coin, since there are so many good ones out there. As a dealer, it's in my best interest to help my customers preserve their collections: they are more likely to purchase coins from me in the future, and at some point, I may have an opportunity to buy back some well-preserved collections.

**Q.** You sometimes note the potential moisture problem inside a burglar-proof/fire-retardant safe, but I don't

recall any specific advice on how to deal with it. May I have your comments on the following procedure?

First, place the coin in a mylar (not PVC) flip, and put the flip inside a standard cardboard or plastic box that holds 2 x 2-inch holders. Next, place the box inside a tightly sealed plastic bag; then set the sealed bag on the top shelf of the safe. Finally, set an open tray of silica gel (the kind used for drying flowers) on the safe's bottom shelf. Do you think this system will work? Do you have any better ideas?

—B.A., via the Internet

**A.** Overall, I think your reasoning is sound. Make sure you regularly change the silica gel so that it maintains its effectiveness as a drying agent. Remember, the more frequently you open the safe, the more often you will have to change the silica gel. I also suspect that a safe subjected to extremes in temperature may need fresh silica gel more often, leading to more air exchange inside the safe. I also prefer a hard, plastic box to one made of cardboard simply because it is much less subject to deterioration.

As with any method of storage, no matter how superior it may be, it's important to regularly check the condition of your coins.

Readers are invited to send questions about coin preservation to me in care of *The Numismatist*, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, E-mail [anaedi@money.org](mailto:anaedi@money.org). Please be advised that your comments may be edited for length and clarity. •



# ANA AUTHENTICATION BUREAU

BY BRIAN A. SILLIMAN

## Wanted: Your Input!

Each month, I pontificate about one counterfeit or another, or various topics related to counterfeit detection. This month, I want to offer readers the opportunity to participate, either by sharing ideas for future columns or by serving as guest authors.

Suggestions for topics always are welcome. Simply drop me a note via E-mail or U.S. Postal Service (addresses below). The ANA Authentication Bureau (ANAB) staff has the resources and experience to certify coins from virtually any country and era. Let us know what types of coins you would like to see explored here.

If you think you have discovered a deceptive counterfeit or alteration,



The ANA Authentication Bureau evaluates a great variety of coins each month. Recently submitted (and determined to be genuine) were (clockwise, from left) a 1652 silver 8 reales produced by the Potosi Mint; an 1857-C \$1 gold piece; an 1879 Hawaiian 12½-cent token issued by the Thomas H. Hobron Railroad; and a silver siliqua of Constantine I ("the Great") struck around A.D. 335.

why not share this information with other readers? Following the format of previous "ANA Authentication

Bureau" columns, type up your findings (the text should not exceed two, double-spaced pages). You can provide photographs, or we can take them for you. (Do not send coins with your text. If we select your article for publication, we will contact you and, if needed, ask you to send the coin for photography.) If possible, include the coin's weight and specific gravity.

Those sending articles for review should be ANA members (individuals or clubs). Young numismatists, adult collectors and professional numismatists are equally encouraged to participate. Submit articles and suggestions in writing to Brian Silliman, ANA Authentication Bureau, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, fax 719/634-4085 or E-mail [anaab@money.org](mailto:anaab@money.org).

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5. Applicant hereby grants ANA permission to use or dispose of, in any manner whatsoever, any and all photographs of said item(s) and any information obtained from the examination thereof, for any lawful purpose.

6. In view of ANA's policy that all packages of items transmitted to ANA for authentication are opened in the presence of two ANA employees, the determination of said employees as to the item(s) received by ANA and/or not received by ANA shall be final, conclusive and binding upon the applicant in any dispute with respect to ANA's receipt of such items.

7. The insurance referred to herein only covers the period from ANA's receipt of a coin to its delivery thereof to a representative of the United States Postal Service for return to Applicant by Registered insured mail. ANA will not be liable for the subsequent loss or theft of or damage to such coin or the failure of the U.S. Postal Service to make delivery thereof but will assist Applicant in completing a postal service claim form therefore. U.S. Postal Service liability is limited to \$25,000 per package.

### FEE CALCULATIONS

No. of Items	Rate	
FEES: _____ x \$23.00		= \$ _____
(Nonmember x \$28)		
FEES: _____ x \$40.00		= \$ _____
(Nonmember x \$48)		
PLUS+ FEES: _____ x \$5.00		= \$ _____
POSTAGE (1 item)	\$8.50:	\$ _____
EACH ADDITIONAL ITEM \$1.00 ea.:		\$ _____
ADDITIONAL INSURANCE:		\$ _____
(Required if value exceeds \$1,000 or \$5,000. See worksheet on back.)		
TOTAL THIS ORDER:		\$ _____

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

### GENERAL

#### The American Numismatic Association Authentication Bureau:

- Renders an opinion whether a numismatic item is genuine or otherwise, including authenticating of all coins (U.S., foreign, ancient) tokens, medals, and paper money (including obsolete U.S.).
- Issues a photo certificate with a registration number on genuine items.
- Cannot determine valuation of items—values must be supplied by the submitter.
- Provides reference attributions if possible.
- Uses its network of numismatic experts on a consulting basis for those items requiring additional examination and opinions.
- Provides counterfeit diagnostics on non-genuine specimens.
- Provides certification services for ANA members only.
- Provides additional information on membership services.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

- Please submit items in easy access holders. Mark holders with matching submission numbers.
- Fee schedule: \$23 (\$28 nonmember) per item for specimens valued up to \$4,999 each. For items valued at \$5,000 or more the cost is \$40 (\$48 nonmember) per specimen. Genuine and counterfeit determinations will be at full charge. Sufficient return postage must be included with each submission. Postage only will be billed if no decision is reached.
- ANA will provide free insurance up to \$1,000 per item valued under \$5,000 (average). \$5,000 worth of free insurance, per item will be provided for each item valued at \$5,000 or more. Shipments valued higher are charged \$1.00 per thousand dollars of excess valuation. Fill out one Excess Insurance worksheet per order (see below). This insurance covers only the period in which it is in ANA's possession. (See #7 under ANA's Liability)
- The ANA fee structure is predicated in part on accurate valuation of coins for insurance purposes. Overvaluation, even within the stated limits, raises costs and may result in a rate increase.
- Payment is due in full with order. Items will not be processed until payment is received. Allow 4 – 6 weeks turnaround time.
- A reexamination requires submission of the certified item and the certificate.
- Transfers require submission of original certificate (ANAAB will not reissue certificates bearing grade opinions).

### PHOTO CERTIFICATE

- A photo certificate will be issued for newly authenticated items and for reexamination and transfer of previously authenticated items submitted to ANACS prior to August 1, 1990.

### EXCESS INSURANCE WORKSHEET

1. TOTAL "OWNER'S VALUE" OF ORDER.
  2. A. NUMBER OF ITEMS SUBMITTED \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1,000
  2. B. NUMBER OF ITEMS SUBMITTED \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5,000
  2. C. ADD LINES 2A & 2B FOR TOTAL OF ANA'S FREE INSURANCE
  3. IF A IS LESS THAN B. WRITE 0 AND STOP HERE. IF B IS LESS THAN A, SUBTRACT IT FROM A AND MULTIPLY THE BALANCE BY .001.
  4. THIS IS YOUR EXCESS INSURANCE FEE
- A \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
B \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
X .001

### EXAMPLES

	A <u>\$35,500</u>		A <u>\$63,000</u>
45 x \$1,000	B <u>\$45,000</u>	45 x \$1,000	B <u>\$45,000</u>
	\$ 0		\$18,000
	x .001		x .001
	Excess insurance fee		\$18.00



## Biblical Forerunner

*continued from page 405*

about 1750 B.C. Apparently this was not the first time older seals were reused in later times. It was not uncommon for people to use antique seals or family heirlooms passed on to the next generation.

## Monetary Worth

THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS AT Dor speculated on the worth the moneybags represented in the Phoenician weight system. Each bag weighed about 409.5 grams, and excavators proposed that this corresponded to the weight of the *light mina* (*maneh* in the Bible) established by the Babylonians and later adapted by the Phoenicians. The common Phoenician mina may have weighed 448 grams and consisted of 60 *shekels*, each weighing 7.48 grams. A *talent*, the most famous weight in Biblical literature, comprised 60 minae. The word "shekel" also is the Semitic term for a common weight used throughout the East at the time; it later came to be used as the name of a coin denomination.

It is suggested that the Phoenicians, having done away with the Babylonian sexadecimal system of reckoning, may have reduced the mina from 60 to 50 shekels, each with a weight of 8.19 grams, to make up a light mina of 409.5 grams. However, this theory is complicated and not entirely conclusive, so we may never know exactly what value each moneybag represented.

Nevertheless, the chief archaeologist reporting on the hoard concluded that the bags of token pieces of silver were indeed an "early form of money." He also stated that laboratory analysis proved the silver alloy to be 11-percent gold, a relatively

high percentage. Ore of this composition was found only in Spain (ancient Iberia), particularly in the Rio Tinto and Castulo areas. We know that as early as the 12th century B.C., the Phoenicians and Carthaginians had extensive trade relations with Iberia and perhaps even with far-off England in a search for tin. Thus, this silver may have come from the famous mines in Iberia.

The tablet-sized pieces of silver are unusual for this period; they look similar to the small, primitive, coin-like ingots of precious metal manufactured in the centuries that followed. They appear to have been cast in a flat, stone mold to make a grooved slab, similar to a modern-day bar of chocolate. Uniform pieces were intended to be broken off along the grooves. After the ancient tablets were cleaned, it was evident that some had been broken along the grooves, but many were not. This probably resulted from an incomplete or faulty casting, or from workers indiscriminately cutting up tablets to ensure a fixed weight in the bag.

If we are more generous in our thinking, we could say that these bags of silver pieces—weighed out precisely to a standard measure and sealed with the stamp of an individual who guaranteed the weight and value of the contents—satisfy the technical criteria for a true coin as defined earlier. Therefore, we could assert that these sealed bags were a type of primitive coin, a forerunner of the pieces supposedly struck by the Lydians in the 7th century B.C.

With this in mind, we may be able to resolve the "why," "who" and "when" of the earliest coinage. These moneybags, actually primitive coins, the property of a prosperous merchant in a seaport city, definitely

were intended to meet the needs of trade and commerce. Furthermore, they undoubtedly were fabricated by the Phoenicians sometime in the 11th to 10th century B.C. •

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*A retired professor of architecture at Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto, Marvin Tameanko has collected and written extensively about ancients, including the book MONUMENTAL COINS: BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES ON ANCIENT COINAGE. His last article for THE NUMISMATIST, "Nummularii: The First Coin Dealers," was published in August 1999.*



## THE NUMISMATIST

### Advertising Rates and Information

*THE NUMISMATIST is a controlled-circulation, educational journal published monthly and distributed to all American Numismatic Association (ANA) members as a membership benefit. Circulation is currently 27,500, and each issue averages 120 pages.*

Ad Size	Ad Dimensions		Ad Frequency			
	INCHES	PICAS	1 TIME	3 TIMES	6 TIMES	12 TIMES
Full page	6 $\frac{3}{16}$ x 8 $\frac{3}{16}$	38 x 48.6	\$540	\$508	\$487	\$467
Half Page	6 $\frac{3}{16}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 x 23.6	285	275	259	243
Quarter Page	3 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 x 23.6	147	137	132	127
Display Classified	2 x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 x 10.6	95	91	84	79

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Contracts are available for 3-, 6- and 12-time placement. Frequency will be consecutive unless otherwise scheduled. Page position can be requested for regular advertisements, but cannot be guaranteed. No advertisements will be accepted from minors unless accompanied by a statement of financial responsibility signed by a parent or legal guardian. In keeping with the Hobby Protection Act, advertisements for reproductions or imitations of numismatic items must clearly state that they are not original items. Photographs of these items must show they have been marked with the word "COPY" and must include the date of manufacture. *The Numismatist* specifically reserves the right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, or to decline any advertisement in part or in whole.

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Ad copy must be legible and not included in the body of a letter or other transmission. New ad copy cannot be accepted over the telephone. The name and ANA number of the firm's principal officer must appear in all advertisements. Requests for photography of numismatic items will be billed at prevailing national rates. Display classified advertisements will be placed under the classification most closely related to the ad's subject. All display classified ads appear without illustrations or logos.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy in all display advertising. Proofs of full-, half- and quarter-page ads will be provided for review of format and typography. At that time, ad revisions may be requested. Advertisers may be charged for extensive changes requested after deadline. The ANA is not responsible for any errors or omissions noted following the advertiser's approval of the advertisement.

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Advertisers are required to be members of the American Numismatic Association and must submit the name and ANA membership number of owners and/or principal officers of the firm, as well as one banking and three business references.

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**Direct correspondence and advertising materials, along with ANA member name and number, to ANA Advertising Sales Manager, THE NUMISMATIST, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, 800/556-2646, 719/632-2646, Fax 719-634-4085.**



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**CURATOR'S CORNER**  
.....  
BY ROBERT W. HOGE

## Papal Progress: Gifts of Robert Kutcher

It is quite gratifying to have a member read and respond to my column. I always am so appreciative of a do-

nation given to fill a special, stated need in the Museum's growing collection; it is a generous gesture of numismatic philanthropy.

A wonderful example of this phenomenon is the recent gift of three handsome Papal coins, donated by veteran numismatist Robert R. Kutcher. He presented these pieces to the Museum in response to the October 2000 (p. 1244) installment

of my column about Kerry K. Wetterstrom's gift of a lovely, silver 1735 testone of Clement XII. I had mentioned the ANA cabinet's lamentable weakness in this important area of numismatics and was pleased that Kutcher took notice.

The ANA Museum receives many gifts from Association members. All are appreciated, but only a few can be singled out in "Curator's Corner."



### PAUL III (1534-50) — $\frac{2}{3}$ Paolo (no date)

*Obv.:* PAVLVS.III.PONT.MAX. Bust of Pope bearded and tonsured right, wearing vestment bordered with oval and three lis.

*Rev.:* [quatrefoil]. BONONIA DOCET.[quatrefoil]; within circle, garnished arms.

*Specifications:* Silver; weight 3.388g; diameter 26.8mm; axis  $135^{\circ}\pm$ .

*Condition:* Very Fine.

*Notes:* Issued by the Bologna Mint. Muntoni 106; CNI 38, Berman 928. ANA Museum Accession No. 2000.84.1.



### ALEXANDER VIII (1689-91) — Testone 1690

*Obv.:* ALEXAN.VIII.PONT:M:A:I:. Bust of Pope right, moustached, wearing cap (*camauro*) and scapular vestments; below truncation, HAMERANVS (mintmaster and engraver Giovanni Hamerani, father of Ottone, the man who produced the Wetterstrom coin of Clement XII, referenced above).

*Rev.:* RE.FRVMENTARIA.RESTITVTA. Two yoked oxen plowing right, with stalks of grain to left and right; in exergue, MD [Papal arms] CXC. on a stippled field.

*Specifications:* Silver; weight 8.956g; diameter 33.6mm; axis  $0^{\circ}$ .

*Condition:* About Extremely Fine, holed.

*Notes:* Issued by the Rome Mint. Muntoni 16; CNI 27, Berman 2176; KM 527. ANA Museum Accession No. 2000.84.2.



### BENEDICT XIV (1740-58) — $\frac{1}{5}$ Scudo 1756

*Obv.:* BEN.XIV./PON.M.A.XVI. Bust of Pope right, wearing cap (*camauro*) and vestments.

*Rev.:* MDCC LVI. Allegorical Holy Mother Church seated on clouds, facing, holding keys in right hand with chapel in left; ornamental edge.

*Specifications:* Silver; weight 5.170g; diameter 26.4mm; axis  $0^{\circ}$ .

*Condition:* Very Fine.

*Notes:* Issued by the Rome Mint. Muntoni 51e; CNI 335; Berman 2743; KM 974. ANA Museum Accession No. 2000.84.3.



However, Kutcher is an outstanding donor who exerted himself to provide contributions he knew would truly make a difference in the ANA's ability to present and interpret the legacy of numismatics. The Museum welcomes such thoughtful gifts.

The three attractive papal coins donated by Kutcher are all interesting specimens of types previously unrepresented in the collection. They are described briefly on the facing page.

The Museum invites readers to consider donating additional coins or medals of the Papal States to help build a truly comprehensive ANA collection. Information about these interesting pieces is available to members through the ANA Library (E-mail [library@money.org](mailto:library@money.org)). Some pertinent reference texts are listed below, along with their ANA Library catalog numbers:

Berman, Allen G. *Papal Coins*. South Salem, NY: Attic Books, Ltd., 1991. (JI93.B4)

*Corpus numorum italicorum*. Rome: Ministro della Real Casa di S.M. il Re d'Italia, 1910-43 (Vols. 1-18) and Bologna: Forni editore, 1982 (Vols. 19-20). (JI30.C6)

Krause, Chester L., and Clifford Mishler. *Standard Catalog of World Coins, 1601-1700*. Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 1999. (CC82.K7)

Muntoni, Francesco. *Le monete dei Papi e degli Stati Pontifici*, 4 Vols. Rome: P. & P. Santamaria, 1973. (JI93.M8) •

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### Consignment Deadline Set for Atlanta Show

Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc. of Dallas, Texas, official auctioneer for the ANA World's Fair of Money® 2001, will accept consignments for the sale until June 29. The ANA convention will be held on August 8-12 at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta, with the multi-session auction set for August 9-10. Heritage has been auctioneer at 29 ANA conventions since 1980.

A trend-setter in using the Internet for buying and selling numismatic material, Heritage will provide a "World Wide Webcast" of the 2001 sale, a first for the ANA. Heritage Co-Chairman Steve Ivy notes that "Atlanta—the home of CNN, a pioneer in worldwide television coverage—is a fitting location for the first global TV coverage of an ANA auction held in conjunction with the World Wide Webcast." He adds that the firm's website ([www.heritagecoin.com](http://www.heritagecoin.com)) receives more than 200,000 hits each month, up from 60,000 a year ago. Ivy encourages consignors to get their numismatic material in as soon as possible, since "early consignments receive far more pre-sale advertising and promotion than consignments received at the last moment."

Selected through an open bidding process by the ANA Board of Governors, Heritage has agreed to pay the Association \$333,334, plus 4 percent of the prices realized above \$14 million. The firm also must guarantee the grading and authenticity of all auction lots offered.

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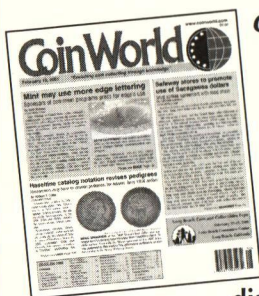
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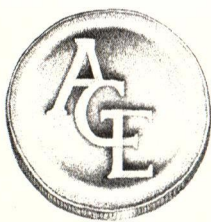
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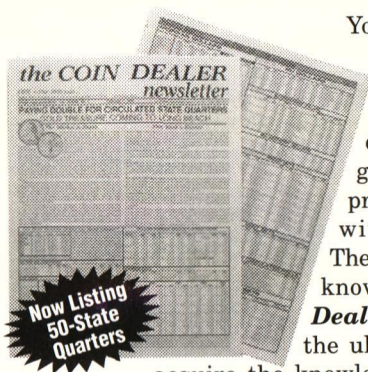
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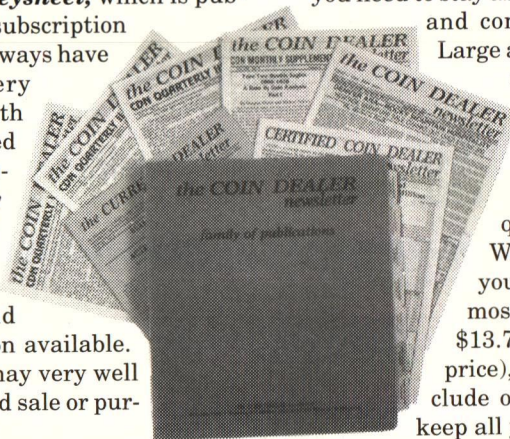


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# ADVERTISER INDEX

Abbotts Corporation .....	461	Excelsior Coin Gallery .....	450*	Numismatic Arts of Santa Fe .....	463
A-Mark .....	393	Fitts, Arthur M., III .....	378	Numismatic Emporium, Inc. ....	447
American Gold Exchange .....	469	Follett, Mike, Rare Coin Co. ....	466	Numismatic Guaranty Corp. ....	369, 409
American Heritage Minting .....	418, 466	Forman & Bauer, Inc. ....	461	Numismatic Guaranty Corp. (Grading Submission Form) .....	400, 401
ANA Advertising.....	463	Froseth, K.M. ....	448	Numismaticcards .....	424
ANA Change of Address .....	443	Geiger, M. ....	464	Numismatik Lanz München .....	461
ANA Conventions .....	423	Georgia Numismatic Association 2001 Convention .....	438	PCI .....	465
ANA Membership .....	444	Gillio, Ronald J., Inc. ....	382	Pacific Atlantic Coin .....	422
ANA Money Museum.....	463, 464	Goldberg, Ira & Larry, Coins & Collectibles, Inc. ....	406	Pinnacle Rarities .....	432
ANA National Coin Week.....	379	Golden Eagle Coin Exchange .....	440	Ponterio & Associates, Inc. ....	422
ANAAB Forms.....	457, 458	Gorny & Mosch .....	414	Presidential Coin & Antique Co., Inc. ....	463
Appel, Richard .....	377	Hanks & Associates, Inc. ....	461	Professional Coin Grading Service .....	364
Arrow Moving & Storage .....	463	Harris, H.E. ....	463	Professional Numismatists Guild .....	420
Avena Rare Coin .....	420	Heritage Rare Coin Galleries .....	371	Rarcoa .....	412
Bank of Canada Currency Museum .....	432	Horton, William H., Jr. ....	388	Rare Coin Investments of Ramsey .....	461
Berk, Harlan J., Ltd. ....	461	J & M Numismatic Investments .....	426	Rettew, Joel D. ....	454
Beymer, Jack H. ....	424	James & Sons, Ltd. ....	461	Rosenblum, William M., Rare Coins .....	461
Bourne, Remy .....	427	Kagin, A.M. ....	417	S.G. Rare Coins .....	414
Bowers & Merena, Inc. ....	IFC	Kagin's .....	424	Sarosi, John Paul, Inc. ....	408
Bullock, C.E. ....	461	Karp, Jules .....	430	Silver Towne .....	416
Butternut .....	416	Kern, Jonathan K. ....	452	Sloat, Sam, Coins, Inc. ....	444
C.T. Coins .....	461	Keystone Coin & Stamp Exchange .....	440	Smythe, R.M. & Co., Inc. ....	442
California Numismatic Investments, Inc. ....	463	Kolbe, George Frederick .....	450	Stack's .....	IBC
Canadian Numismatic Association .....	442	Krause Publications .....	OBC	Steinmetz Coins & Currency, Inc. ....	464
Capital Plastics .....	411	Leidman, Julian .....	413	Stephens, Karl.....	464
Carlisle Development Corp. ....	418	Leu Numismatics.....	386	Stockton, P.E. ....	463
Casper, Michael I., Rare Coins, Inc. ....	418	Lincoln Cent Collectors, Society of .....	384	Summit Rare Coins .....	434
Classical Numismatic Group .....	449	Littleton Coin Co. ....	385	Sunshine Rarities, Inc. ....	408
Cohen, James H. & Sons, Inc. ....	464	London Coin Galleries .....	461	Superior Galleries .....	415
Coin Dealer Newsletter .....	470	Long Beach Coin & Collectibles Expo.....	439	Swiatek-Minerva Coins & Jewelry, Ltd. ....	436
Coin Galleries .....	368	M & M World Travel Service.....	438	Tangible Asset Galleries.....	431
Coin World .....	468	Main Line Coin & Stamp, Inc. ....	464	Teaparty, J.J. ....	376
Colony Coin Co. ....	461	Marc One Numismatics, Inc. ....	454	Teletrade .....	448
Delaware Valley Rare Coin Co. ....	468	Miller's Mint .....	394	Teller, M. Louis .....	464
E & T Kointainer Co. ....	454	Minneapolis Gold, Silver and Numismatic Services (Gary Adkins) .....	384	Texas Numismatic Investments, Inc. ....	412
Eagle Eye Rare Coins .....	444	Minshull, Lee .....	411	UBS AG .....	373
Early American Numismatics .....	426	Mish International Monetary, Inc. ....	464	U.S. Coins .....	420
		Morycz, Stanley .....	412	Weinberg, Fred .....	450
		Mountain High Coins—"1841" .....	430	Weitz, Harold B., Inc. ....	434
		Münzen und Medaillen AG .....	467	White, Harlan .....	432
		National Gold Exchange, Inc. ....	376	Whitman Coin Products .....	428
		Northeast Numismatics .....	413	Williams Gallery, Inc. ....	367
				Yahoo.com .....	389



# Oh, Get Real!

**M**Y BROTHER-IN-LAW is a great guy with a great family and a great, big television set that gets at least 8,000 different channels. I don't have cable TV or a satellite dish. If I did, I'd sit, hour after hour, watching reruns of *Beat the Clock*, *I've Got a Secret* and *The Honeymooners*. I'd never leave home.

If the latest television programming trend continues, soon there will be a "reality" show on every channel, every night. These gritty, emotion-charged programs could affect the hobby community as producers look for new avenues of adventure.

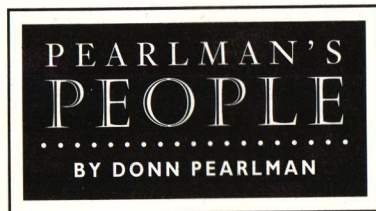
What would numismatic reality shows be like? Here are some ideas, dreamed up while waiting three hours at Chicago-O'Hare International Airport for my luggage to arrive.

**SURVIVOR—THE ANA BOARD:** Members of two tribes (the "Numi-Nerds" and the "Koin Weenies") must endure five, grueling days of protracted ANA budget meetings, surviving only on lukewarm hot dogs from the convention-center concession stand. The slogan of this spell-binding TV program is "Budgets, Bickering, Boredom!"

**TEMPTATION AISLE:** A dozen numismatists are permitted to roam the aisles of a major coin convention after dealers have departed for the night. Hidden cameras reveal who is the first to give in to the overpowering urge to lift table covers and peek at the coin and paper-money rarities.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S AMAZON AND EBAY JUNGLE:** Bargain-hungry collectors venture into the

sometimes cruel and cutthroat jungle of on-line auctions. They must evade wallet-eating creatures dis-



guised as "high grade" coins certified by dubious third-party grading services that just went into business last Thursday.

**SQUEAL OF FORTUNE:** Contestants must dig through dealers' "junk boxes," searching for the one mislabeled coin that will bring them instant numismatic profits. Tension builds as someone finally discovers the \$400 1909-S VDB Lincoln cent in a 2 x 2 holder mistakenly marked "\$10 1909 VDB." But then the finder must stifle his/her delight until out of earshot of the dealers. Only then can the lucky contestant let out a "squeal of fortune."

**ANTIQUES ROAD RAGE:** Show participants burst into bitter, fist-pounding anger when expert appraisers bluntly inform them that their 1804 dollars and 1913 Liberty Head nickels are worthless fakes.

**WHEN NUMISMATISTS ATTACK:** Because of the graphic nature of this program, viewer discretion is advised. Episodes are filmed at major coin shows, where ravenous collectors storm the bourse floor immediately after the ceremonial rib-

bon is cut on opening day, foraging for improbable bargains from hapless dealers. The weekly program also includes a segment featuring snotty comments posted in Internet chat rooms by cantankerous collectors who missed the ordering deadline for the U.S. Mint's latest 100-coin bag of State quarters.

**LET'S BREAK A DEAL:** Exciting spats erupt when winning bidders fail to pay for their auction lots and dealers refuse to fulfill mail-orders or honor return privileges. Well-known actors, reading from hostile letters written by the belligerent participants, provide dramatic narration.

**WORLD'S SCARIEST COIN DEALS:** Day after day, night after night, contestants must fend off unsolicited telephone calls from smooth-talking sales reps offering sure-fire numismatic investments. Incessant sales pitches include compelling lures to buy MS-62 Ikes, EF-AU 1960s-era \$1 silver certificates, and harshly cleaned 1921 Morgans. This popular program will generate a successful spinoff (see next show).

**AMERICA'S LEAST WANTED:** Disillusioned investors travel across the country from coin shop to coin shop, desperately trying to unload what no one wants to buy at any price—the overgraded, overpriced rubbish they imprudently purchased from boiler-room telemarketers. •

*Former ANA Governor Donn Pearlman (P.O. Box 750, Skokie, IL 60076 or [Donnpr@aol.com](mailto:Donnpr@aol.com)) steadfastly refuses to face reality in any format.*



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United States Gold, Silver & Copper Coins, U.S. Paper Money. To be sold in New York City.

**\*JULY 18, 2001**

Foreign & Ancient Gold, Silver & Copper Coins, & U.S. Coins. *(Coin Galleries Mail Bid Sale).*

**\*SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 2001**

United States Gold, Silver & Copper Coins, U.S. Paper Money. To be sold in New York City.

**\*OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 2001**

United States Gold, Silver & Copper Coins, U.S. Paper Money. To be sold in New York City.

**\*NOVEMBER 7, 2001**

Foreign & Ancient Gold, Silver & Copper Coins, & U.S. Coins. *(Coin Galleries Mail Bid Sale).*

**\*DECEMBER 4, 5, 6, 2001**

United States, Foreign & Ancient Coins, U.S. Paper Money. To be sold in New York City.

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